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George Henry Lamson

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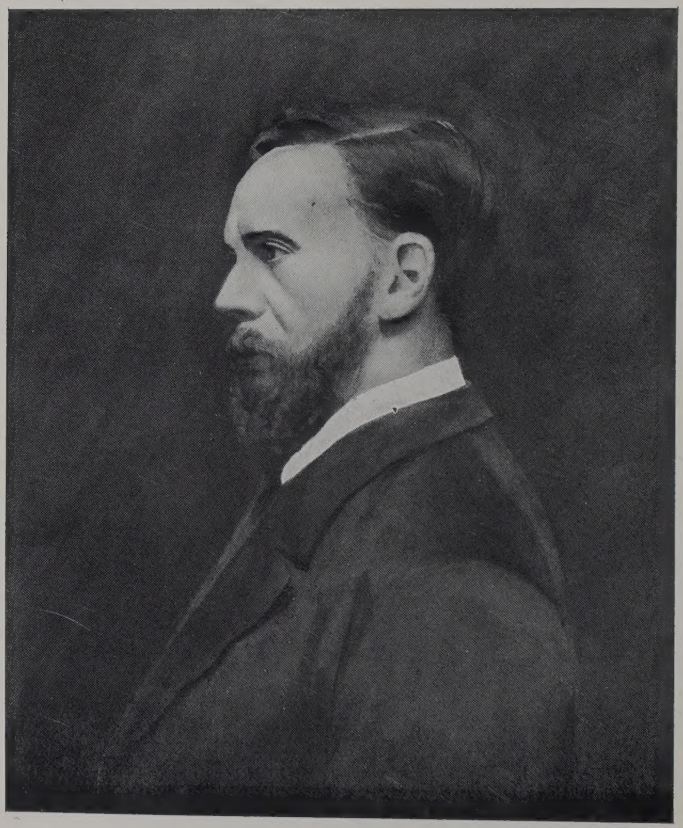

George Henry Lamson.

(*From a Drawing by P. B. Whelpley.*)

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Trial of

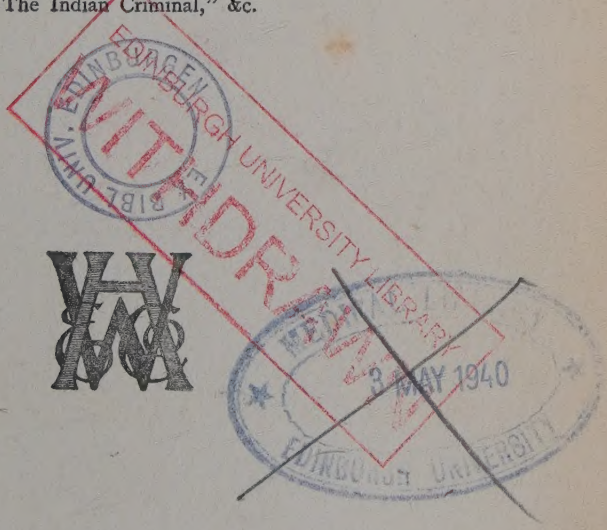
George Henry Lamson

1882

EDITED BY

Hargrave L. Adam

Author of "The Story of Crime," "Oriental Crime,' "The Indian Criminal," &c.



[1913]

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TO

SIR CHARLES W. MATHEWS,

FORMERLY HEAD OF THE CRIMINAL BAR, AND PRESENT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS,

THIS VOLUME IS

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THE EDITOR.

PREFATORY NOTE.

The present volume has been compiled mainly from the official Old Bailey Sessions Papers and the contemporary newspaper reports. I may say that the Sessions Papers in question are not by any means as helpful as one is justified in expecting them to be. They are frequently inadequate, and not infrequently almost misleading. They give neither the speeches of counsel nor the summing up of the judge. Why cannot these papers be made to present a full verbatim account of the whole proceedings in at least the most important cases? These volumes on "Notable Trials" are, as far as my knowledge goes, the only ones wherein may be found full and complete accounts of important criminal cases. They must be invaluable to both students of law and legal practitioners, as well as interesting and helpful to professional and amateur criminologists. The work entailed in the task of compiling them is enormous.

Where possible and thought prudent, the interrogatories have here been set out at length; in other places the evidence has been condensed, but not, it is hoped, so far as to in any way confuse the reader's understanding. I have to acknowledge my indebtedness to the valuable assistance rendered me by Sir Charles Mathews, the present Public Prosecutor, who himself figured in the case as one of the counsel for the defence, and who, *viva voce*, imparted to the writer much interesting and useful knowledge of the case. Sir Charles was also, as will be seen, good enough to accept the dedication of the work.

The Lamson case was unique as being the first, as far as was known, in which the poison aconitine was used for homicidal purposes. This fact indicates the extreme cunning of the criminal, although it did not serve to save him from his well-merited punishment.

H. L. A.

London, *March*, 1913.

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DR. LAMSON.

INTRODUCTION.

In the year 1881 there resided at Blenheim House School, Wimbledon, a youth named Percy Malcolm John. He was eighteen years of age, and the youngest of a family of five. On the death of his parents, some years previously, he had been entrusted to the guardianship of a Mr. Chapman, who, in turn, had placed him at the school referred to, which was presided over by a Mr. Bedbrook. Young John was a cripple, being afflicted with curvature of the spine, which caused paralysis of the lower limbs. In consequence of this, the poor young fellow was deprived of the use of his legs, although he retained full use of his upper limbs, and was otherwise in good physical condition. At Blenheim House two wheel-chairs were kept for his use, one upstairs and the other downstairs, in which the lad would wheel himself about. He could not, however, by this means move up and down stairs, and it was therefore the custom of one or more of his fellow-pupils to carry him up to bed at night and down to breakfast in the morning.

In spite of this grave physical disability under which the young fellow suffered, Percy John was of a cheerful disposition, albeit at times he, not unnaturally, would be visited with occasional fits of depression while contemplating the activity of his fellow-scholars, who were enabled to indulge unrestrainedly in those youthful pastimes which he himself loved so well, but which a cruel destiny had rendered him incapable of

participating in. He was condemned to play the comparatively cheerless part of a passive observer. But this was by no means the worst affliction he was destined to suffer under, for ere long it was decreed that he should fall the victim of one of the cruellest crimes ever conceived by the mind or accomplished by the hand of callous and calculating man. Thus early upon the threshold of a life of but limited enjoyments he was soon to experience as painful a passing hence as ever was visited upon a suffering mortal. No more pathetic story was ever penned than that which constitutes the record of the brief life and anguish-stricken death of poor, afflicted Percy Malcolm John.

Of the five children of the John family already referred to, one of them, a girl, died before her parents. This left two boys and two girls, all of whom, at the death of their parents, became wards in Chancery. All also, under certain specified conditions, were entitled to small sums of money. And thereby hang all the sin and suffering it is our present painful task to chronicle.

In the year 1878 one of the girls—or, as she then was, young woman—married a man named George Henry Lamson. By entering into this alliance Mrs. Lamson became entitled to, and duly received, her share of the money left by her parents. At that time a married woman possessed no separate estate—the Married Woman's Property Act had not yet been passed. So the money practically passed into the pockets of her husband. In fact, a settlement was made to that effect—not, be it borne in mind, against that lady's wishes, but, on the contrary, and by all accounts which have since been handed down, entirely with her approval and in accordance with her wishes. For Mrs. Lamson, be it here inscribed, bore towards her husband a love and devotion which far surpassed anything of the kind ever conceived by novelist, and, in the light of subsequent events, was, in the minds of many people, regarded as a degree of wifely faithfulness and self-sacrifice not altogether explicable.

In the following year—1879—the brother of Percy John died, in such a manner and under such circumstances as will claim our further attention later on. By the death of this youth, whose name was Herbert, Mrs. Lamson inherited a portion of his share of their parents' bequest, and this money, which consisted of £479 in India Stock and £269 in Consols, passed,

in the manner already indicated, into the pockets of Lamson. It may here be stated that the other daughter also married, became a Mrs. Chapman, and, with her husband, took up her residence at Shanklin. By so doing she also inherited her share of the property, and we shall not have occasion to concern ourselves further with this portion of the estate.

This left Percy, the young crippled scholar of Blenheim House School, the sole remaining legatee who had not yet inherited his portion of the estate. It now becomes essential that we should note under what conditions the money was recoverable. Percy would inherit either in the event of his coming of age or marrying. Had he survived so long, he would have been nineteen on 18th December, 1881. In the event, however, of his dying before either of these events transpired, his legacy, which amounted to £3000, would be equally divided between his two surviving and already married sisters. So that, we may be allowed to state, upon his death at such a period of his life Lamson would have access to £1500.

In the year 1880 Lamson, who was a medical man, purchased a medical practice at Bournemouth. It will be noted that this was the year subsequent to that in which Herbert, the brother of Mrs. Lamson, died, as a result of which this lady inherited a sum of money. Dr. Lamson was apparently not successful, for in March of the following year we find him in considerable financial embarrassments. Executions and writs were out against him, and so desperate were his affairs that his home was sold up. Shortly after this—in April, 1881, Lamson went to America. As to how exactly he occupied his time there is not generally known, but we do know that on his return journey he assisted the surgeon on board ship, and borrowed from him £5. Again he went to America, and afterwards returned to Bournemouth. There he saw a Mr. Stevenson, who gave him a case of surgical instruments. On 24th or 25th October, 1881, he again went to London, and in November he was staying at Nelson's Hotel, Great Portland Street. His affairs were apparently still in a desperate state, for on 24th November he pawned his watch and case of instruments for £5. On the 26th he went to the American Exchange Office, Strand, and asked them to change a cheque on the Wilts and Dorset Bank for £15. This the Exchange declined to do.

Dr. Lamson.

On 30th November Lamson went to Ventnor. He was unable to pay his fare from Ryde to Ventnor, but the stationmaster allowed him to travel, as he said he had friends at the other end who would pay. In Ventnor he borrowed from a Mr. Price Owen the sum of £10 on a cheque for £15, and afterwards he increased the loan to £20. He then returned to London and sent off the following telegram:—

Lamson, of Ventnor, to Price Owen, High Street, Ventnor.—Just discovered that cheque you asked yesterday made on wrong bank. Please don't send it on. Letter follows next post.

That same night he sent off the following letter:—

Nelson's Hotel, Great Portland Street, W.,
London, December 1, 1881.

Dear Sir,—I sent you a telegram just before leaving my friends at Horsham, telling you I had written my cheque on the wrong bank, which was the case. I formerly had an account at the Wilts and Dorset Bank, but have since transferred my business to another house. The cheques are of the same colour, and as I left home in a great hurry, I snatched up from my drawer what I thought was the right book, but I was mistaken. I had in my hurry taken my old Wilts and Dorset cheque book, which contained a few blank cheques. I have not the right book with me, but have wired home for it to be sent me by return to Ventnor, where I return to-morrow or next day, and shall then immediately set the matter right with you. Begging you will pardon such an inexcusable piece of stupidity on my part, I remain, dear sir, in great haste, yours faithfully,

GEORGE H. LAMSON, M.D.

The explanation contained in this letter was, as it was eventually proved to be, false. As a matter of fact, his account at the Wilts and Dorset Bank was overdrawn, and he had received notice to that effect. He had no other account, because, as we have seen, he was busy pawning his goods. He afterwards drew another cheque, which was returned marked "no account." His next effort to "raise the wind" was a desperate and risky one, for it constituted a criminal offence. He drew a cheque for £12 10s. on the bank he had no account with, which he endeavoured to get changed. In this he experienced some difficulty. However, with a Mr. Tulloch, he drove to the Eyre Arms, St. John's Wood, where it was cashed.

In the middle of these desperate efforts to raise money he wrote, on 1st December, 1881, to his brother-in-law, Percy John, at Wimbledon. The letter was as follows:—

Nelson's Hotel, Great Portland Street, W.,
December 1, 1881.

My Dear Percy,—I intended running down to Wimbledon to see you to-day, but I have been delayed by various matters until it is now nearly six o'clock, and by the time I could reach Blenheim House you would be preparing for bed. I leave for Paris to-morrow, and so propose to run down for a few minutes before I go. Believe me, my dear boy, your loving brother, G. H. L.

Now, in connection with this letter a curious thing happened. On 2nd December he did not call at Blenheim House at all, although he went to Wimbledon with Mr. Tulloch, whom he left at the station. Subsequently he told him that Percy was bad and getting worse. He also added that Mr. Bedbrook was a director of the South-Eastern Railway, and had advised him (Dr. Lamson) not to cross from Dover to Calais that night, as there was a bad boat running. All these statements were false, and the object he had in view in making them to Mr. Tulloch is not at all clear. He was undoubtedly in Wimbledon, but there was nobody who was in a position to testify that he had called that night at Blenheim House. He had certainly not seen Mr. Bedbrook that day, nor had the latter gentleman any connection with the South-Eastern Railway in an official capacity. It was not generally known where Lamson slept on the night of the 2nd.

We now come to the eventful day of 3rd December, 1881. On the morning of that day Percy John was carried downstairs to the basement as usual at Blenheim House. He was in his usual health, and partook of breakfast and dinner at the customary hours. In the afternoon he engaged in a game of charades with his fellow-pupils, and at six o'clock he took tea with them. After tea he was employed in looking through the examination papers of another pupil. A few minutes before seven a message was brought to him that his brother-in-law had called to see him, and he was accordingly carried upstairs into a room where Dr. Lamson and Mr. Bedbrook were conversing together. Mr. Bedbrook had

aleady noticed that Lamson looked much thinner and paler than when he saw him last.

Lamson greeted his brother-in-law with "How fat you are looking, Percy, old boy," to which Percy replied, "I wish I could say the same of you, George." With the exception of Mr. Bedbrook, who remained standing, they all then sat down, and talked. Mr. Bedbrook, knowing that Lamson was fond of sherry, invited him to partake of a glass. The wine being brought, Lamson remarked that he always took a little sugar with it, in order to counteract the alcohol, which, he stated, was present in large quantities in sherry. Mr. Bedbrook thought that sugar would have quite the opposite effect, but sent for it. It was white, powdered sugar, known as "castor" sugar, and it was brought in a basin, which was placed upon the table. Lamson then proceeded to put a portion of it in his glass of wine. He had brought with him a small, black handbag, and from this he now took a Dundee cake, *already cut*,* and some sweets. He handed a piece of the cake to Percy, another to Mr. Bedbrook, and helped himself to a piece. All ate of the cake. He then produced a box of capsules, and to Mr. Bedbrook he said, "While in America I did not forget you. I have brought these capsules for you. You will find them very useful to give the boys medicine." Mr. Bedbrook took one, and while he was examining it he saw Lamson putting sugar into another. He took the sugar from the basin with a "spade spoon." He then closed the capsule and shook it, at the same time remarking, "It has to be shaken in order that the medicine may go to the bottom." Then, handing it to Percy, he said, "Here, Percy, you are a champion pill-taker; take this. Show Mr. Bedbrook how easy it is to take." Percy at once took it and swallowed it. The time was 7.15.

It is here advisable to call the reader's attention to the fact that all these actions were made by Lamson before the eyes of Mr. Bedbrook, who was closely watching the whole proceedings. About five minutes afterwards Lamson said he

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*This detail, about which there appears to exist some misunderstanding, I mention on the authority of one who was officially present at the trial.—H. L. A.

must be going, as he had to catch a train for Paris. There were two trains that he might catch, but the first of these, as Mr. Bedbrook pointed out to him, he had already lost. It was only about a minute's walk to the station, and he had plenty of time in which to catch the second train. In spite of these facts he left immediately. He was unquestionably anxious to be gone from the house. The melancholy reason for this will soon be apparent. Mr. Bedbrook saw him to the door, where he, Lamson, repeated an observation he had made on former similar occasions, namely, that he did not think Percy would last much longer. Now, there was no justification for his entertaining such an opinion, except through the medium of an individual and guilty knowledge. With the exception of the curvature of the spine, which, beyond partially disabling the poor lad, was not otherwise imperilling his health—he was normally sound.

About ten minutes' after Lamson's departure Percy complained of heartburn, and of feeling generally ill. He said, "I feel just the same as I did after my brother-in-law (Lamson) gave me a pill at Shanklin." This was in reference to a visit he had previously paid to his sister, Mrs. Chapman, where Lamson had also been present, and had "prescribed" for him. The poor boy became worse, and indeed grew so bad that he had to be carried upstairs to his bedroom. On the way he vomited. As he was, fully dressed, he was laid upon his bed, and thereupon ensued for that hapless and already sorely afflicted youth a period of pain and anguish happily but rarely experienced by suffering mortals. He was seized with tetanic convulsions, suffered great pain, threw himself about, and had to be forcibly held down.

Thus early after the departure of that sinister man—"thin and pale"—were the inmates of Blenheim House thrown into a state of consternation and lamentation. And many of those fellow-pupils of Percy John who heretofore had gladly helped to lighten the sombre moments of his afflicted life were now witnesses of the cruel pangs which were hastening him to a grievous and untimely end. Hour after hour of unspeakable anguish passed over the head of that luckless youth, his accumulated sufferings holding sovereign sway over all the remedies which his many friends and would-be helpers

could apply. The dark angel of death had got him in a relentless clutch. Through it all—cruelty of cruelties!—he retained consciousness and the full capacity for suffering. He even described some of his horrible symptoms to the scared onlookers, crying aloud that his "throat was closing," and that his skin was "being drawn up." Among those present were the matron, Mrs. Bowles, and the junior master, Mr. Godward, both destined subsequently to bear witness against the inhuman fiend who had contrived the calamity.

About nine o'clock a Dr. Berry saw the sufferer, noticed that his throat was very sore, and gave him water. It so happened that a Dr. Little was a guest in the house, and he assisted Dr. Berry. These two medical men were able to thus early diagnose the case as one of vegetable poisoning, and suspicion was at once directed towards that man who was even then fleeing to the Continent. They—Drs. Berry and Little—took steps accordingly, preserved some of the vomit, and endeavoured to extract some kind of statement from the invalid. In this they were unsuccessful beyond learning from him that his brother-in-law had previously given him a "quinine pill." Realising that nothing could save the lad, they applied themselves to assuaging his pains by repeated injections of morphia. Through this means the patient fell into a comatose state, and at the hour of eleven merciful death put a period to the sufferings of Percy Malcolm John.

Next morning Mr. Bedbrook gave notice to the police, and the case was put into the hands of Inspector Fuller. The latter took possession of many articles found in Blenheim House, and the first steps were taken in a criminal case which, in the months to come, was destined to stir London to its depths, and to find a prominent place in the sinister annals of crime for all time. A post-mortem was duly held, but it rendered no evidence which could adequately account for death. The curvature of the spine was proved to be innocuous, and with the exception of a slight disease of one of the lungs all the other organs of the body were found to be healthy.

In the meantime it was generally known that in connection with the case Dr. Lamson was "wanted." He had gone to Paris, but on 8th December he voluntarily returned to London and presented himself at Scotland Yard. He was seen by

Inspector Butcher, when the following conversation took place:—Upon his arrival Lamson said, "Mr. Butcher?" and Butcher replied, "Yes." Lamson then said, "I am Dr. Lamson, whose name has been mentioned in connection with the death at Wimbledon." Butcher then asked him to be seated, and he continued—"I have called to see what is to be done about it. I considered it best to do so. I read the account in the public papers in Paris, and came over this morning. I have only just now arrived in London. I am very unwell and upset about this matter, and am not in a fit state at all to have undertaken the journey." It should be mentioned that Mrs. Lamson accompanied her husband. Inspector Butcher then sent for Superintendent Williamson, who said to Lamson, "You will have to remain for a time."

The three—Lamson, his wife, and Butcher—then remained for some time conversing on general topics. At length Lamson said, "Why is this delay? I thought I would come here and leave my address. I am going into the country—to Chichester—so you will know where to find me; and I will attend the inquest. I have travelled from Paris *via* Havre and Southampton. I went over *via* Dover and Calais." Shortly afterwards Lamson was summoned to another room, where Inspector Williamson said to him, "Dr. Lamson, this case has been fully considered, and it has been decided to charge you with causing the death. I therefore take you into custody, and charge you with causing the death of Percy Malcolm John, at Blenheim House, Wimbledon, on the 3rd of December." To this Lamson replied, "Very well. Do you think they would accept bail? I hope the matter will be kept as quiet as possible, for the sake of my relations." Williamson then said that it would be his, Williamson's, duty to take him to Wandsworth Police Court, where the question of bail would rest with the magistrate. Lamson was then taken in a cab to Wandsworth Police Court. On the way he said, "You will have my father here in a day or two. I hope it will be stated that I came to Scotland Yard of my own free will. I came from Paris on purpose." Williamson replied, "Certainly."

We may now at once move forward to the opening of the great trial, which took place at the Central Criminal Court,

on Wednesday, 8th March, 1882. The case created what is popularly known as a "big sensation," and large crowds of people flocked to the Court with the fugitive hope of obtaining admission somehow. Needless to state, the bulk of them were compelled to be satisfied with the negative satisfaction of remaining outside and gazing upon the brick walls which intervened between them and the scene of the life-drama proceeding within. Yet even this blank attraction was considered by the morbid-minded of the populace as sufficient reward to justify them in keeping watch and ward day by day, and the crowds increased as the trial developed, until the final day, when a huge body of spectators assembled and waited impatiently for the announcement of the fateful verdict. Nothing like it has been seen in the grim, old thoroughfare in later years, if one excepts the scene enacted outside the new Court on the occasion of the hearing of the Camden Town case, when a "demonstration" occurred which would have done justice to a Royal visit, a popular political meeting, or an unexpected aerial invasion of an allied Power.

The scene inside the Court was no less remarkable. It was packed to suffocation long before the hour for the opening of the trial had arrived, and every point of vantage was taken up. Even the corridors without were packed. It was a case not to be missed by the members of the bar, and the well of the Court was positively whitened with their wigs. Ladies also were much in evidence, and their fashionable garments, costumed as they were or might have been for a garden party or an "At Home," lent a not unwelcome colour relief to the all-pervading gloom which was ever characteristic of the old Court.

The trial was supposed to begin at 10.30, but it was not until 10.45 that the familiar rap on the door at the end of the bench announced the approach of the judicial procession. Thereupon the packed assembly slowly and somewhat painfully rose to its feet, as though worked into position by one common lever, the door by the side of the "City Lands" seats opened, and Mr. Justice Hawkins (the late Baron Brampton), robed in scarlet and ermine, strode majestically along the bench. He was immediately followed by Aldermen Sir Robert Carden, M.P.; Sir Thomas White, the Recorder (Sir Thomas

Chambers, M.P.), Mr. Alderman Figgins, Mr. Sheriff Hanson, Mr. Sheriff Ogg, Mr. Under-Sheriff Bayliss, and several Middlesex magistrates. Bringing up the rear was a solemn figure draped in black. It was the chaplain. When they had all lined up (his lordship beneath the Sword of Justice) the bench bowed to the Court, the Court returned the salutation, and all sat down. Upon the little desks along the bench reposed gaudy bouquets of flowers and little heaps of dried herbs. As the judge sat down he placed a little square of black cloth beside him. It was the black cap.

All eyes now turned to the dock. They saw a young man, aged twenty-nine, clothed in a black frock coat, and wearing black kid gloves and a black necktie. He was apparently a highly intelligent man, had a pallid face, piercingly dark brown eyes, not cruel, but rather tender and profound, moustache, whiskers, and a slight beard; beneath his eyes were dark rims, speaking of wakeful nights and mental tension; though slightly nervous, he was generally composed; his mouth was rather weak—it receded below somewhat; but his brow was a fine one, albeit deeply lined, and had those protuberances which Tennyson described as the "bar of Michael Angelo." He was well guarded by a number of warders. This was the prisoner, George Henry Lamson. He bowed respectfully to the bench, and sat down, after having replied in a firm, clear voice, to the customary question, "Not guilty."

The prosecution was conducted by the Solicitor-General (Sir F. Herschell), who was assisted by Mr. Poland and Mr. E. Gladstone. The defence was in the hands of Mr. Montagu Williams, Mr. Charles Mathews (the present Public Prosecutor), and Mr. W. S. Robson.

The case against the prisoner as outlined by the Solicitor-General in a speech which was at once temperate, impartial, and convincing, was indeed a strong one. Like most cases of the kind, the charge rested almost entirely upon circumstantial evidence, but evidence so complete, and of such a damning character, that it needed no straining of the law to demonstrate the guilt of the accused in the minds of most persons who listened to the story of the crime as logically unfolded by the prosecution. Indeed the only really debat-

able point in the whole case would appear to have been in connection with the poison which was clearly proved to have been the agent of death, namely, aconitine. It was amply made manifest that the deceased had died from the effects of a vegetable poison acting on the stomach and nerve centres. Both in the viscera and the urine the presence of this poison was detected. In those days much more difficulty existed in testing for vegetable than for mineral poisons. Moreover, aconitine was then a somewhat rarely known poison, its property and effects upon the human system not being exactly familiar to the medical faculty. A good deal of confusion arose as to the name of the poison, and in this connection some evidence which had been given under a misunderstanding had to be repeated when the mistake was discovered. There appeared to be three names by which the poison was designated, two of which only were correct. It may as well be here stated that the correct word for the poison itself is "aconitine." In connection with it there were also used the words "aconite" and "aconitia." Now, aconite is the plant (Aconitum napellus), otherwise known as "wolf's-bane," or "monk's-hood," the extract obtained from which is also called aconite, the active principle of which is aconitine—the poison. Aconitia would appear to be a polite variation of aconitine.

The late Mr. Montagu Williams has placed on record his opinion of this case in the following words:—"This was one of the most difficult cases that I ever had to deal with, because it required so much medical knowledge. For days before the trial—or, rather, for nights, my days being fully occupied—I spent hours in study, being assisted in my task by Professor Tidy, the celebrated analyst."*

Drs. Stevenson and Berry made important tests, principally by taste. They applied some of the alkaloid obtained from the body to their tongues, which produced a "biting and numbing effect"; a precisely similar effect was produced by a similar application of aconitine, which had been purchased for the purpose. They also made subcutaneous injections of some of the vomit which had been preserved in mice, and the latter died. More than sufficient poison was found in the

* "Leaves of a Life."

vomit to have caused the death of the deceased. Curiously enough—and this was damning evidence against the prisoner—a description of the symptoms of poisoning from aconitine, similar in all its details to those exhibited by the deceased in his last illness, were found inscribed in a kind of pocket-book belonging to Lamson. Also the latter's purchase, and attempts to purchase, the poison were clearly proved. He had tried to purchase aconitine from Messrs. Bell, of Oxford Street, but failed. On 24th November he called at Messrs. Allen & Hanbury's and asked for two grains of aconitine. The assistant asked him his name, and he gave it as "Dr. Lamson, of Bournemouth." The assistant then looked up the "Medical Directory," found the name there, and served the poison. Subsequently, when the assistant saw the name of Lamson mentioned in connection with the death at Wimbledon he communicated with the police.

This evidence was severely commented upon by the judge. He declared that the precautions taken by Allen & Hanbury's assistant were not sufficient, that under such circumstances anybody might quote a name from the "Medical Directory," write a prescription like a "prize cryptogram," and so obtain the most deadly drug. In justice to the assistant in question, however, it should be stated that the subject of the sale of poisons is a very difficult one to deal with. For years the Pharmaceutical Society have been wrestling with it, and some time ago the present writer went deeply into the subject with one of the principals of that society. The latter have "scheduled" as many deadly agents as they can, but so many poisons are commonly used for commercial purposes that to limit or, as it were, penalise their sale would act somewhat as a hardship upon many innocent persons. In short, it is not possible to prevent would-be poisoners from obtaining, in one way or another, possession of the material with which to accomplish their nefarious ends. One can only adopt measures to obtain as much knowledge as possible of those persons who make such purchases. This may not be exactly preventive, but it is to be feared that it is as near as one can get to that desirable state of things.

The prisoner appeared to take a deep interest in the medical evidence, as well he might do, for his fate hung almost

exclusively upon that. His counsel fought valiantly for him, and never lost an opportunity of endeavouring to discount the testimony of the "experts." He kept the curvature of the spine, from which the deceased suffered, well to the fore, asking the witnesses such questions as, "Would pressure on the arteries near the curved spine produce death?" and "Is aconitine given as a 'spinal sedative'?" He also "scored" off Dr. Berry, who had to confess himself quite ignorant of the effects of vegetable poisoning from experience. Mrs. Bowles, the matron, was not a good witness, and Mr. Williams was not slow to profit by it. She was uncertain with her facts, had a defective memory, and made mistakes, at each one of which the strident voice of "Monty" Williams rang out with, "What, another mistake!" But, after all, concrete facts tell in the end, and these "points" made by counsel for the defence were but of temporary advantage to the prisoner.

The evidence of Dr. Bond, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and lecturer on medicine at Westminster Hospital (whose lamentable end will be recalled with regret by many who knew him) was interesting, and deadly to the prisoner. He gave it as his opinion that the deceased unquestionably died from the effects of a poison, of a "vegetable alkaloid," and in this opinion he could not be shaken. The evidence also of Drs. Stevenson and Dupré, as to the presence of aconitine in the body of deceased, was conclusive. Dr. Stevenson gave his evidence in a most convincing manner; grave, precise, and quick to catch the meaning of questions put to him, every word he uttered was of the weightiest importance to the prisoner, and set the jury busily note-taking. In a "play box" of the deceased were found some pills and in a portmanteau some powders, all of which had been sent or given by the prisoner to the deceased. They were supposed to consist of quinine, but in some of the pills was found eight-tenths of a grain of aconitine—one-twentieth of a grain was sufficient to cause death. Also in some of the powders aconitine was found. Some of the poison Dr. Stevenson placed on his tongue, and it produced a "biting and burning, which lasted for hours acutely." Finally Dr. Stevenson made this pronouncement—"I should say he died from poisoning by aconitine."

We now come to a very interesting part of the case. How

was the poison administered to the deceased? We refer, of course, to the fatal dose which was administered at Blenheim House. The theory of the prosecution was that it was administered in the capsule which Lamson gave to Percy John. But another theory existed—and one, too, which was entertained, *sub rosa*, by the defence—but to which we find no reference whatever made in any published account of the trial. This theory, which we have received straight from the lips of Sir Charles Mathews, the counsel who was second to Mr. Montagu Williams for the defence, was as follows:—The poison was administered, not in the capsule, but in that portion of the Dundee cake which the prisoner gave to the deceased, being introduced into one of the raisins. As a matter of fact, at the post-mortem the skin of a raisin was found in the stomach of the deceased, which was impregnated with aconitine. If we view the circumstances through the medium of a little metaphysics we shall at once see that this theory is far and away the more feasible of the two.

Lamson was a particularly cunning and subtle poisoner. Of that there can exist no shadow of a doubt. Would such a man, then, openly administer a fatal dose of poison before the very eyes of an independent witness like Mr. Bedbrook? Is it likely? Then, it may be asked, why did he thus openly and ostentatiously administer an innocuous capsule to Percy John? For the same reason that many another cunning criminal has performed seemingly inexplicable things—to create evidence for his own defence; to draw a red herring of apparent innocence across the trail of guilt. He had very carefully planned his crime. He purposely gave that capsule to Percy John, before the very eyes of Mr. Bedbrook, in such a manner that the latter gentleman was witness to every movement he made, and could swear, as doubtless he was prepared to do, that he saw nothing but the sugar introduced into the capsule. Nobody gave evidence at the trial that Lamson was seen to put anything into the capsule but the sugar; he could not have done so without Mr. Bedbrook seeing him, for, as we have already pointed out, he was witness of his every action. He saw the capsule empty, he saw it filled with sugar, he saw it handed to Percy John, and he saw the latter swallow it. There was nothing but the sugar in the

capsule. How could Lamson have poisoned Percy John in that way? With sugar? Why the defence did not challenge this theory is best known to the defence.

Now to come to the cake. It was a Dundee cake, and it was in the bag where the capsules and the sweets were also. The cake was *already cut.* What for? Do people usually cut a cake before they present it to somebody else? Would not the natural and normal thing be to wait until the cake is on the table, and about to be distributed, before cutting it? Is a wedding cake cut before it comes from the confectioner's? Or after it gets on to the table before the wedding party? If you wish to discover the motives of a cunning person you must apply common sense to his actions. Every man has a motive for his smallest action; if his actions are not governed by custom and habit, then he has an ulterior motive. The surrounding circumstances should tell you what that motive is. Lamson's chief motive for visiting Blenheim House on 3rd December, 1881, was to administer a fatal dose of poison to his brother-in-law, Percy John; hence he behaved abnormally in relation to the cake. Out of this sprung another motive, namely, to avert suspicion from himself; hence he behaved abnormally in regard to the capsule. Both actions were abnormal, and embodied his guilt. It was necessary for him to first cut the cake in order that he might "doctor" that portion which he intended for the victim, and which he gave to him; had the cake been whole he could not have done this. He then handed another piece to Mr. Bedbrook, and took a third piece himself; all ate of the cake, Percy John of the poisoned portion. This distribution, too, was necessary, because if Percy John had laid his piece aside to eat another time it might have miscarried. So by eating himself, and inviting Mr. Bedbrook to eat also, the eating became general. So we may conclude that Percy Malcolm John died from eating a piece of poisoned cake, and not from swallowing a poisoned capsule.

The issue of the trial never at any time seemed to be in doubt. The judge's summing-up was cold, clear, calm, and passionless, leaving no loophole of escape. The prisoner was visibly dejected during the references to his impecuniosity and his desperate efforts to raise money. Upon the last day the

Court was packed, and the atmosphere of it very close. The prisoner, in addition to being dejected, seemed physically prostrated. No witnesses were called for the defence, but Mr. Montagu Williams delivered a masterly address to the jury, which the prisoner followed very closely. This speech of Montagu Williams' in defence of Dr. Lamson was considered by his *confreres* as one of the best things he ever did in the way of forensic eloquence. He spoke for nearly two days, and Sir Charles Mathews has placed it on record that while leaving the Court after the case was concluded, in company with Mr. A. L. Smith, the latter remarked to him, "I have never before in my life been so terribly moved."

During the closing speech for the prosecution the hopelessness of his case seemed to descend upon the hapless prisoner with overwhelming force, for his dejection grew deeper, and he cast uneasy glances from side to side, as though looking for some loophole of escape. At the end of each day's hearing a little woman dressed in black advanced to the dock and held out her hand to the prisoner just before his removal. It was his wife. This touching incident was seized on by Mr. Williams, and turned to account in his address for the defence. He graphically and most impressively described the pathetic little figure emerging from an obscure corner of the Court to place her hand in that of her husband's, and gaze at him with perfect love and trust, thereby demonstrating her firm belief in his innocence. Concerning this incident Mr. Williams wrote—"This shows how true a woman can be, for I have but little doubt now, from many circumstances that came to my knowledge after the trial, that she full well knew her husband to be guilty. Nay, it is probable that she knew more than was proved before the legal tribunal. There can be little doubt that her other brother, Herbert, by whose death Lamson came into a considerable sum of money, was also murdered by him."*

The jury retired at six o'clock, the prisoner was removed from the dock, and his wife taken away by her friends. The jury were away about half an hour. In the meantime a pregnant incident occurred. To everybody's surprise the

* "Leaves of a Life."

prisoner was seen to return to the dock and enter into conversation with several persons. In the ordinary course of things the prisoner does not re-appear until the jury have arrived at their verdict, so the people wondered what it meant. Presently the prisoner was seen, with trembling hand, to be signing some document. It was his will. Then he returned below. The incident created a deep impression.

At length the jury returned, the foreman looking very pale. The dread verdict might be read in this man's face. The prisoner also returned, his face ghastly in the extreme. He seemed to crouch in the background, his eyes were wild-looking, and roved about as though he meditated precipitate flight. Thus might a man look who found himself trapped, with death staring him in the face. Then came the fateful word, "Guilty." At the sound of it the prisoner staggered, buried his face in his hands, and would have fallen had not he been supported by the warders. At this point a diversion was caused by a newsboy tumbling over people in his frantic efforts to get out and convey the news of the verdict. With a vociferous "Silence!" from the usher the Court relapsed into a painful silence. The prisoner approached the front of the dock, rested his trembling hands upon the rail, and in reply to the usual question as to whether he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed upon him, he lifted his eyes to the roof and exclaimed, "Merely to protest my innocence before God!" He then seemed to recover somewhat, and to assume a partially defiant attitude. When the judge directed him to prepare for his end he bowed respectfully, and again at the words, "May the Lord have mercy on your soul." He then turned away, and two warders took him by the arms. These attentions, however, he seemed to resent, remarking, "You needn't do that"; and, half-willingly, half-tottering, he disappeared from the dock.

The jury handed a paper to the judge, which contained some recommendations in regard to restricting the sale of poisons, and this his lordship promised should be forwarded to the Home Office.

The prisoner was subsequently removed to Wandsworth Prison, where the execution was fixed to take place on 2nd April following. It did not, however, take place on that date, in consequence of an incident perhaps unique in the annals

of criminal trials. It was sought by his friends to establish the prisoner's insanity, and a number of persons in the United States who had known him in the past made affidavits to that effect. As the appointed day for the execution approached the President of the States cabled to the Home Secretary (Sir William Harcourt) to grant a postponement, in order that the affidavits, which were on their way over, might be perused. To this request the Home Secretary, rightly or wrongly, acceded, and the prisoner was accordingly respited till the 18th. The affidavits arrived—a veritable sheaf of them—on the 14th, and, in order that they might be given due weight and consideration, the prisoner was again respited till the 28th. In the end no cause or justification was found why the execution should not be carried out in due course of law, and so George Henry Lamson was executed by Marwood on 28th April, 1882, at Wandsworth Prison, and his body buried within the precincts thereof.

The delay occasioned by his friends was, as most persons agreed, a misplaced kindness. It did but prolong his mental sufferings, and those of his immediate relations, as he himself testified. We do not propose to dwell at length upon the miseries of the unhappy man's last hours—let history be as discreet as possible on this score. His devoted wife's last interview with him was a painful one, as how else could it be? We are told that he himself was calm and collected, and busied himself setting in order, so far as he might, his worldly affairs. He made confession of the crime, hereafter to be referred to again. We are also told that, on the eve of his violent passing hence, he made a "big meal of beef," and that he "slept soundly." We refer to these reported details with all possible caution, for we entertain a large measure of doubt about them. He expressed his dislike to being buried in the prison grounds, and asked that his body might be handed over to the doctors and his brain carefully examined—a request, which one need scarcely state, was not complied with. His remains were interred beneath the level turf of the prison burial ground, his modest sepulture being indicated by a square slab of stone let into the wall which skirts it.

Let us now devote a little space to the psychology of this remarkable case. George Henry Lamson was convicted of one

of the most cruel, callous, and calculating crimes that the mind of man can conceive. Yet was he described by many people who knew him, or who thought they knew him, as having been in the past "a most humane man." So also in similar terms were described the miscreants Palmer and Pritchard. At all times let us be merciful, and with mercy temper justice. But how come such arch-criminals as we have named with reputations for humanitarism? It is a mystery not easy to fathom. One hesitates to write down such declarations as mere sophistry; rather would one prefer to describe them as the result of a laudable desire to think and speak well of the fallen, however base their ending. We have it on unquestionable authority that Lamson was at one time engaged in relieving the sufferings of his fellow-creatures at little or no personal advantage to himself. In the year 1876 he was engaged as a volunteer surgeon in Servia, and in 1877 in Roumania, for which services knightly orders and military medals were conferred upon him. He placed his talents and time unreservedly at the disposal of Princess, afterwards Queen, Elizabeth, for which he received no pecuniary reward beyond the ordinary pay and field allowances of an assistant-surgeon. An acquaintance who met him there described him as well behaved and highly educated, "full of excellent differences," sweet-tempered and cheerful. He was received by Roumanian society with open arms. He was a French scholar, and knew other Continental languages. He won "golden opinions from all manner of men," and performed deeds redounding to his honour. A Roumanian gentleman of illustrious birth and exalted station said of him, "Kind, good Lamson is the last man in the world whom I could conceive capable of a base and cruel action."

Another old acquaintance wrote of him—"No stranger, more inexplicable contrast has ever presented itself to my mind than that afforded by the Lamson who was my friend and the Lamson revealed to me by the late criminal proceedings. Such a character as his, teeming with irreconcilable contradictions, must ever remain a dark, impenetrable mystery to those who, like myself, were only permitted to contemplate its nobler side and brighter aspect. The inevitable, irremediable fallibility

of human judgment, when exclusively based on personal experience, has never been more painfully demonstrated than by the appalling fact that George Lamson, the kind friend, genial companion, and approved philanthropist, has proved to be the base wretch who is about to die the death of a dog by the hand of the common hangman."

What, one may ask, was answerable for this astonishing metamorphosis? Lamson was in the habit of dosing himself with morphia, and in this fact we may find some sort of explanation of his remarkable transformation. But the question arises, would the habitual use of such a drug radically change a man's whole nature and impel him to commit deeds diametrically opposed to his former self? To his wife, upon the occasion of one of her visits to him in prison, he said, "Morphia has been my curse, and has almost destroyed my reason," and "My thoughts are clearer and my brain less clouded than they have been for years." It is beyond dispute that in his later years he said and did incomprehensible things. It was said that he had no right to the titles "L.R.C.P.(Lond.)" and "M.D.(Paris)," which he assumed, and he was struck off the roll of membership of the Bournemouth Medical Society. He also, upon one occasion, took a practice at Rotherfield, Sussex, where he was unpopular. He placed upon his name-plate the name of a surgeon living at Crowborough, without that gentleman's knowledge. Subsequently he sold the practice, and, when somebody came from London to see him about it, he caused a number of people to keep ringing the bell, to create the impression that he had a large practice.

He also, in February, 1881, wrote a criminal libel about a friend's wife, stating that she had been the mistress of a millionaire in Paris, and had endeavoured to outshine the *demi-monde* there; that a duel had been fought between the millionaire, whose name he gave as Prevost Paradol, and another man of whom he was jealous; that the millionaire was mortally wounded, and that he, Lamson, was one of the seconds. The whole thing was a fabrication, done, apparently, to please the husband, and it conferred no particular personal advantage upon Lamson. It resulted in the estrangement of the couple. The late Charles Reade, who firmly believed in Lamson's insanity, happened to know Prevost Paradol, who was

an author, and who committed suicide in America. Reade thought this false story clearly indicative of "minute hallucination" and "unconscious malice."

After conviction Lamson wrote the following letter from prison:—

Wandsworth Gaol, March 15, 1882.

Although bowed to the very dust, humble, crushed, and prostrate before God Almighty, I am still able to find strength and power to raise my voice in solemn utterance against the cruel and ferocious verdict pronounced yesterday upon me. Sentence was, of course, in duty bound to follow, and here let me say, most emphatically and distinctly, no one is more keenly alive to and deeply gratified for the most untiring and devoted manner my solicitor performed his part in working up my case. To my last moments I shall say and feel this, and I also feel, recognise, and am grateful for the magnificent speech made by the defence by Mr. Montagu Williams. In a word, it was as powerful a speech as could be made by an advocate. But I cannot help thinking that it was a mistake calling no witnesses on my behalf. For this, understand me, I do not blame any one. There were witnesses available who could have given me a good character, traceable through many years down to a day or two previous to my departure for Paris, and the poor boy's sad death. Most of these were in Court. I try to prevent, although I cannot help permitting, my thoughts straying to those who in reality suffer most for this dreadful injustice. I even at the best am for ever dead in this world, and at the worst will soon be beyond its harassments, injustices, pains, and sorrows. Oh! and see their number. They (my relations) must suffer for a calamity I would cheerfully, gladly, with happiness, if they could be spared, endure uncomplainingly. When my friends come to see me they must be prepared to see me in convict's dress, closely guarded. They will see me in the presence of others, and myself with only such life and strength and physical power, which, I am assured, are not all my own. I will endeavour to do my utmost to face the cruel circumstances fate has in store, and I trust they will aid me by all the strength they possess, and that God will sustain me.

He was much shattered and exhausted, for he had been confident of an acquittal up to the very end. He was visited by both his wife and his father, who was an English chaplain in Florence.

The letter, which contained his confession, and which was written to a friend, was as follows:—

Wandsworth Prison, April 27, 1882.

My Dear Mr. ———. I feel it my duty to you and all my friends, and especially to my own family and relations, to say a few words, in these my last hours upon earth, in reference to the offence for which

Introduction.

I am condemned to forfeit my life so shortly. I have told you much, and endeavoured to make clear to you my own impressions and ideas as to my mental and moral condition for a long time previous to the act for which I am sentenced to death. The news of my brother-in-law's death roused me as from a species of cloud. Then came my long period of imprisonment at Clerkenwell, and, while there, necessarily the total deprivation of the drug I had so long been accustomed to. With great mental and physical suffering was the weaning accomplished, leaving, however, strongly perceptible results. Then the fearful ordeal of the trial, the awful shock of the sentence, and the sojourn in the condemned room here, face to face with death, cleared away all clouds from my mind, and now, gazing back into the mists of the past, I believe I can truly and solemnly say, as only can be said under my present conditions, that in my right and normal state of mind the compassing and committing such a crime as that for which I must now die would have been *utterly and absolutely impossible, and altogether foreign to my whole nature and instincts.* Subject to mental disturbances from slight causes from earliest years, with a brain easily affected, the use or abuse of morphia and sedatives, and narcotics made a ready physical, mental, and moral victim of me. I earnestly pray Almighty God to pardon my yielding to such habits, and trust they may be an awful warning to others similarly tempted and assailed, seeing to what indescribably fearful consequences they have led in my case. I earnestly thank you and all my friends for their efforts and prayers to obtain mercy for me, and, although ineffectual, you may have the great satisfaction of knowing from me that they were based upon tenable and honest grounds and foundation. Believe me, dear Mr. ———, with sincere gratitude and true friendship and regards, most faithfully yours,

GEO. H. LAMSON.

He also made a verbal confession to the chaplain of the prison.

It was rightly advanced in the prisoner's favour that he voluntarily came from Paris to Scotland Yard when he heard his name associated with the death at Wimbledon, the defence maintaining that this was clear proof of his innocence. They also stated that had he so chosen he might instead have betaken himself to some country where his extradition could not have been demanded, and so have remained safe from the law. But, unfortunately for the prisoner, this supposition was negatived by the fact that when he presented himself at Scotland Yard he had but a few shillings on him, and one cannot live in a foreign country without means. There can be no doubt that his visit to Scotland Yard was merely a bit of "bluff," another cunning effort to construct a theory of innocence by the subtle man who contrived the capsule incident.

Lamson's innate capacity for making friends was evidenced even after his conviction, for in addition to the interest taken in his case in America, a meeting was also held on his behalf at Exeter Hall by American citizens. Also impressionable and hysterical ladies left floral offerings for him at the lodge gate of the prison in which he was confined. It is highly improbable, though, that the authorities allowed the condemned chamber to be thus decorated and perfumed.

After the conviction of Lamson it was generally believed, as we have already stated, that he was also answerable for the death of his late brother-in-law, Herbert John, by means of which he came into a considerable sum of money. Herbert John died suddenly in 1879, but at the time no suspicion would appear to have been aroused as to the means of his end. Lamson himself, while in prison, emphatically denied that he had anything to do with this death. Inasmuch as he made this statement at the same time that he confessed to his guilt of the crime for which he had been condemned, and at a moment when he knew that there was no hope for him upon this earth, his denial must be allowed to carry conviction with it. It is highly improbable that a criminal, however callous and mendacious he may have been in the past, would deliberately lie on the brink of the grave, particularly when such mendacity could avail him nothing in this world. A murderer may steadfastly refuse to confess his guilt, disdaining, for reasons best known to himself, to gratify the curiosity of his fellow-creatures, or to acquire the consolations of mankind, preferring, as it were, to repose full and inviolate confidence in the mercy of his Maker, but it is doubtful if he would commit deliberate perjury for little or no apparent reason. Therefore we should concede that Dr. Lamson was telling the truth when he stated that he had no hand in the death of his brother-in-law, Herbert John. But even so, the guilt to which he confessed was sufficient to ensure his memory a prominent and sinister place in the annals of crime, which it ocupies.

H. L. A.

Leading Dates in the Lamson Trial.

1881, August	28.—Dr. Lamson purchases 3 grains of sulphate of atropine and 2 grains of aconitine from chemist at Ventnor. Visits deceased at Shanklin, and gives him a pill. Deceased taken ill, but recovers.
	30.—Dr. Lamson goes to America; sends pills from America to Mr. Bedbrook at Wimbledon.
October	17.—Dr. Lamson returns from America; visits Ventnor, where he obtains cash for a worthless cheque.
November	20.—Dr. Lamson unsuccessfully attempts to purchase aconitine at Messrs. Bell & Co.'s, Oxford Street.
	24.—Dr. Lamson purchases 2 grains of aconitine at Messrs. Allen & Hanbury's, Plough Court, Lombard Street.
December	1.—Dr. Lamson staying at the Nelson Hotel, Portland Road; visits a medical student named Tulloch; says he is going to Paris; writes to deceased at Wimbledon and says he will visit him on the morrow; gets cash for a worthless cheque for £12 10s.
	2.—In company with Tulloch, visits Wimbledon, but does not go to Blenheim House, although he represents to Tulloch that he has been there.

Dr. Lamson.

1881, December	3.—Dr. Lamson visits Blenheim House, Wimbledon; sees Mr. Bedbrook and deceased; brings cake, sweetmeats, and capsules with him; gives cake and capsule to deceased; leaves shortly after and goes to Paris; deceased taken ill, and dies that night.
	6.—Post-mortem held, but revealed no cause of natural death.
	8.—Dr. Lamson returns from Paris and presents himself at Scotland Yard; taken into custody and charged with the crime.
1882, March	8.—Trial began at the Old Bailey.
	14.—Dr. Lamson convicted and sentenced to death.
April	2.—Date originally fixed for execution, but prisoner respited in consequence of communication from United States.
	18.—Second date fixed for execution to take place, but prisoner again respited.
	28.—Execution of Dr. Lamson.

THE TRIAL.

WITHIN THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT,

OLD BAILEY, LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1882.

The Court met at Ten o'clock.

Judge—

SIR HENRY HAWKINS, Knight, one of the Justices of the Exchequer Division of the High Court of Justice.

Counsel for the Crown—

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (*Sir F. Herschell*).

Mr. HARRY B. POLAND.

Mr. E. GLADSTONE.

Counsel for the Prisoner.

Mr. MONTAGU WILLIAMS.

Mr. CHARLES MATHEWS.

Mr. W. S. ROBSON.

George Henry Lamson was indicted as follows:—

THE INDICTMENT.

Central Criminal Court to wit.—The jurors of our Lady, the Queen, upon their oath present, that George Henry Lamson, on the third day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eighty one, feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, did kill and murder one Percy Malcolm John, against the peace of our Lady, the Queen, her Crown, and dignity.

On being called upon, the prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The jury having been duly empanelled and sworn, the Solicitor-General proceeded to open the case for the Crown.

Opening Speech for the Prosecution.

Solicitor-General.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL—My lord and gentlemen of the jury, it will be affectation to suppose that you have not either heard or read something of the case you are now sworn to try; but I am quite sure that you will dismiss from your minds anything you may have heard or read, or any previous information you may have received, and that you will direct your attention solely to the evidence that will be laid before you. The prisoner at the bar stands charged with the gravest offence known to the law—the crime of wilful murder—and if he is guilty of the crime he is guilty of wilful murder of the most painful character, inasmuch as the victim of the crime was the prisoner's brother-in-law, Percy Malcolm John, whose death you are inquiring into, on 3rd December last, and who up to a few hours of his death was in his usual health and strength. He was the youngest of a family of five, and would have attained the age of nineteen on 18th December last. On the death of Percy John's father and mother he was placed under the guardianship of Mr. Chapman. That gentleman sent him to Mr. Bedbrook's school at Wimbledon, where he had been three years at the time of his death. Deceased suffered from physical infirmity consequent on curvature of the spine and paralysis of the lower limbs. He was unable to work, but had the full use of his upper limbs and a strong development of the upper parts of the body, so that he was well able to move himself about in his chair from one room to another.

Solicitor-General. It was necessary for him to be carried up and down stairs, and this was done by one or other of his fellow-pupils. On 7th December he had his breakfast and dinner as usual with Mr. Bedbrook and the other inmates of the house, and he spent the day in all respects as usual. In the course of the afternoon of that day he joined in a game of charades, and took tea with the party at six o'clock. While so engaged a message came to him that his brother-in-law had come to see him. He was carried upstairs, where he found Mr. Bedbrook and the prisoner. They sat down together and began to talk. A glass of sherry was offered to the prisoner, who said that there was a great deal of alcohol in sherry, and asked for some sugar. The sugar was brought, and he put some into the wine. The prisoner had a bag with him, from which he took some cake. During the conversation he produced a box of capsules, remarking to Mr. Bedbrook, "While in America I did not forget you. I have brought these capsules for you. You will find them very useful to give the boys medicine." Mr. Bedbrook took one of the capsules offered to him by the prisoner to try, and while doing so he observed Lamson putting sugar into another. Prisoner shook it up, and, turning to Percy John, said, "It has to be shaken in order that the medicine may go to the bottom. You are good at taking medicine; take this." Deceased took the capsule accordingly. It was then a quarter-past seven o'clock, and the prisoner said he must be going as he had to catch a train for Paris. At twenty minutes past seven o'clock the prisoner left the house, and ten minutes later deceased complained of heartburn, then that he felt seriously unwell, and, he added, "I feel just the same as I did after my brother-in-law gave me a pill at Shanklin." Deceased afterwards became worse, and he was carried upstairs, and was very sick in the bathroom. About nine o'clock Dr. Berry, at the request of Mr. Bedbrook, went to see him, and found his throat very sore, and gave him a little water. Dr. Berry subsequently asked another medical man to assist him with his advice, but they could not get any additional information from the boy. An injection of morphia was given on account of the great pain the lad was suffering, and again an injection was made under the skin. There was nothing, as far as the medical men could see, to account for death, which took place at eleven o'clock

at night. The post-mortem examination confirmed this view. The only sign of disease externally was the old-standing curvature of the spine. Internally the only disease apparent was a slight disease of one of the lungs. The other organs were all healthy, and the medical gentlemen came to the conclusion that death had resulted from a vegetable poison acting upon the stomach and nervous centres. There are several vegetable poisons which will have that effect, and amongst them a poison called aconitine. The vomit from the stomach was accordingly subjected to a careful and minute examination by men of the highest possible skill, and they found in the viscera and the urine the distinct presence of some vegetable alkaloid. I should tell you that there are not the same means of testing vegetable poisons as there are of testing mineral poisons. There is therefore great difficulty in ascertaining the nature of vegetable poison, and the only sure and reliable means is that of the test of taste. Accordingly that test was applied by Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Berry. They found that a biting and numbing effect was produced by tasting some of the alkaloid found in the body. A precisely similar effect was produced by aconitine purchased for comparison. A mouse was experimented upon with the poison extracted from the vomit, and it caused death. Sufficient aconitine was found in the vomit to cause death, so that a very large dose must have been administered to the unfortunate boy. It is a curious fact, but one I do not wish to press against the prisoner, who, as a medical man, no doubt was legitimately in possession of the work, that in a book belonging to him was found a description of the symptoms of aconitine poisoning. Comparing this description with the symptoms exhibited by the deceased in his sufferings, you will find that they agree exactly. Supposing, therefore, that you are satisfied that the deceased died from aconitine poisoning, then comes the question, who administered it? How did the poison pass into the body of the deceased? You will have detailed to you what took place in the evening in question, and there cannot be the slightest doubt about this, that the prisoner was the last person from whose hands he received food or anything solid. If the prisoner did administer the poison, how did he become possessed of it? It will be shown not only that the prisoner had a few days before become possessed of

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Solicitor-General. aconitine, but that he had previously tried to purchase it from Messrs. Bell, of Oxford Street. A few days before 14th November he went again and asked for some aconitine, which the assistant refused to supply. On the 24th he went to Messrs. Allen & Hanbury and called for two grains of aconitine. The assistant asked his name, and he gave it as Dr. Lamson, of Bournemouth. The assistant, named Hobbs, found the name in the "Medical Directory," and served the two grains, and received for it half a crown. On the evening of 5th December there appeared an account of the death of Percy John, and in connection with it the name of his brother-in-law, Dr. Lamson, was mentioned. The assistant to Messrs. Allen & Hanbury, remembering the name, communicated with the police. At first the assistants were of opinion that it was atropia that they had served; but, comparing the price paid, they, upon second thoughts, altered their opinion. It is important to bear in mind that they did this before the analysis was made.

These are the direct facts, but there are others to which it is necessary to call your attention. In the box of the deceased was found a box bearing the name of Mr. Littlechild, chemist, Ventnor, containing a number of powders, numbered from 7 to 20. Those numbered to 15 were ordinary quinine powders, but No. 16 contained some aconitine. No. 17 was an ordinary quinine powder, and 18 and 20 also contained quinine. Mr. Littlechild, who sold the quinine powders to the prisoner, will say that there was no aconitine in them when sold. This is all the information which we shall be able to give with regard to the pills, but you will, of course, have to form your own judgment upon the matter and draw your own inference. You will hear during the case that aconitine is a very violent and dangerous poison, and that a very small quantity indeed suffices to destroy life. You will also learn that Mr. Bedbrook received from the prisoner when he was in America a box of pills. Prisoner stated that he had seen some one in America suffering from the same complaint as the deceased, and that similar pills had been taken with beneficial effects. Mr. Bedbrook will tell you that the box of pills found in the deceased's box was the same kind of box as that he received. Mr. Bedbrook's recollection in regard to this box is absolutely clear, and he will prove, as far as it can

be proved, that he gave one of the pills out of this box to the deceased. The deceased complained of the taste, and said he did not like the pills. It will be for you to judge as to where the pills came from, but the medical men will tell you that they are not such as would be compounded in the country. This will be proved beyond doubt—that some of the pills, and three at least of the powders, contained poison. There is one other fact connected with this part of the case to which I will call your attention. On 29th August Percy John was taken ill at Shanklin, where he was staying with his sister, Mrs. Chapman, and her husband. The illness passed off, and a medical man was not therefore sent for. From Mr. Smith, of Ventnor, the prisoner purchased a grain of aconitine. They saw the prisoner on their arrival, and he told them that he would call on the Monday to bid the deceased "good-bye," as he was going to America. Whether he did call or not we are not in a position to prove directly; but we shall prove that a person of the name of Lamson on that night left his bag at the Shanklin station. On the night of 29th August the deceased was taken ill, and suffered considerable pain. The next morning the illness passed off, and Mr. Chapman, who, with his wife, was away the previous afternoon, did not send for a medical man. On 28th August the prisoner went to a chemist at Ventnor and purchased a grain of aconitine. This fact, coupled with the circumstance to which I have called attention, is important in considering the present case, particularly when you remember that on the night of 3rd December the deceased himself said the symptoms were the same as those he suffered from after taking the quinine pill given to him at Shanklin. If you are satisfied that the death of the deceased was caused by aconitine poisoning, it is immaterial whether there was any motive for committing the crime, or no motive at all. But one of the most natural questions which you will ask, had he any motive for the act—had he anything to gain by it—is there anything that would make it likely that he would be guilty of so foul a crime? I think in this case you will find such a motive. No doubt it will seem a very small one to lead to the commission of such a crime, yet it is a motive which too often operates in cases of this kind.

Solicitor-General

The deceased, as I have told you, was one of a family of

Solicitor-General. five, and at the death of the parents each came into a small sum of money. One of the sisters died before her parents, so that, for the present case, I have only to deal with four persons. Another sister married the prisoner in the autumn of 1878, and in 1879 the deceased's brother died. There was no marriage settlement,* so the money would revert to the prisoner. Percy John had about £3000 to come to him, and by his death before he came of age £1500 of this would revert to the prisoner, and the remainder to his sister-in-law, Mrs. Chapman. In 1880 Dr. Lamson purchased a medical practice at Bournemouth. But in March, 1881, he was in great financial embarrassments, and there were executions and writs out against him. Subsequently his furniture was sold. In April, 1881, the prisoner went to America, and on returning he gave the surgeon of the ship some assistance, and he then borrowed £5 from him. The prisoner again went to America, and after returning he went to Bournemouth. He there saw Mr. Stevenson, who gave him a case of surgical instruments. The prisoner came up to London about 24th or 25th October, and in the month of November we find him staying at Nelson's Hotel, Great Portland Street. On 24th November he pawned his watch and the case of instruments for £5, and on the 26th he went to the American Exchange Office in the Strand. There he asked to have a cheque on the Wilts and Dorset Bank cashed for £15, but this they declined to do. On 30th November the prisoner went to Ventnor, but he had not the money to pay his fare from Ryde to Ventnor, and the stationmaster let him travel on to that place, as he stated that he had friends there who would pay. In Ventnor he borrowed from Mr. Price Owen £10 upon a cheque for £15, and subsequently he increased the amount to £20. Upon his return to London he telegraphed as follows:—

Lamson, of Ventnor, to Price Owen, High Street, Ventnor.—Just discovered that the cheque you asked yesterday made on wrong bank. Please don't send it on. Letter follows next post.

And the same night he wrote as follows:—

Nelson's Hotel, Great Portland Street,
London, December 1, 1881.

Dear Sir,—I sent you a telegram just before leaving my friends at Horsham, telling you I had written my cheque on the wrong bank,

* This would seem to have been an error on the part of counsel.—Ed.

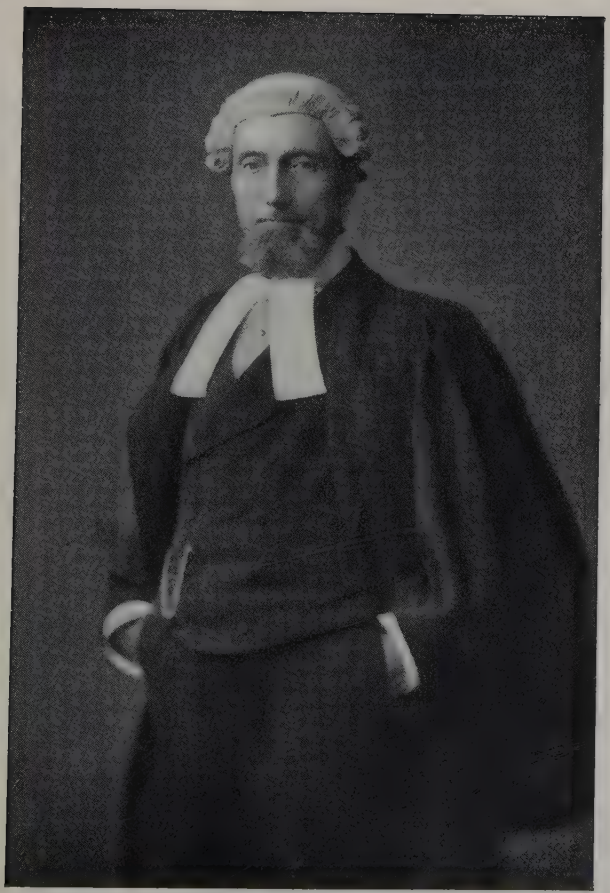
which was the case. I formerly had an account at the Wilts and Dorset Bank, but have since transferred my business to another house. The cheques are of the same colour, and as I left home in a great hurry, I snatched up from my drawer what I thought was the right book, but I was mistaken. I had in my hurry taken my old Wilts and Dorset book, which contained a few blank cheques. I have not the right book with me, but have wired home for it to be sent me by return to Ventnor, where I return to-morrow or the next day, and shall then immediately set the matter right with you. Begging you will pardon such an inexcusable piece of stupidity on my part, I remain, dear sir, in great haste, yours faithfully, GEORGE H. LAMSON, M.D. Solicitor-General.

The fact was that the prisoner's account with the Wilts and Dorset Bank had been overdrawn, and he had received notice to this effect. You will see that the prisoner intimates that he had changed his bankers, but, considering that he was in such a position that he was pawning his goods, it is doubtful whether he had a banking account anywhere. Of any other banking account the prosecution know nothing whatever. Another fact was of importance—that another cheque was drawn afterwards and returned marked "no account." On 2nd December he drew a cheque on the bank which he had previously admitted he had no longer any account with. There was a difficulty in obtaining change, and he, with Mr. Tulloch, had to drive to the Eyre Arms, St. John's Wood, to obtain the £12 10s. for which the cheque had been drawn. All this shows the prisoner to have been in dire need of money, and in such need that he was obtaining it by committing a crime. A part of the case which ought not to be omitted is the fact that the prisoner wrote from the hotel he was staying at in Great Portland Street to his brother-in-law, the deceased, saying that he was about to go to Paris, and would call on him the following day. That would be 2nd December. It will be shown that, though the prisoner went to Wimbledon, he did not call on the deceased, although he told Mr. Tulloch, who was waiting for him at the station, that he had seen him, and that he was very ill, and getting worse. He also said that Mr. Bedbrook, who was a director of the South-Eastern Railway Company, had recommended him not to cross from Dover to Calais, as there was a bad boat on the service. Prisoner did not see Mr. Bedbrook at all that night. Where he stayed on the night of 2nd December we do not know, but the following night he did

Solicitor-General undoubtedly go to Paris, and on the 8th he returned and went to Scotland Yard to face, as he said, the charge. No doubt this is a matter for you to take into consideration, and one that may be fairly urged in favour of the prisoner. But you must not lose sight of the fact that he was liable then to arrest upon the charge, and that, having but seven and a half francs in his pocket when he was arrested, he was obviously not in a position to support himself or to go to a distant place where his extradition could not be demanded. Those, then, are the facts which you will have to consider, and you will have to decide to what they point. You have the death of this lad occurring after an illness of two or three hours' duration, and after sufferings of the most severe and terrible character. You have not only the causes to account for the death, but you have the symptoms of death from vegetable poison; you have the presence in the body of the deceased—as I think I shall satisfy you beyond the shadow of a doubt—of that most deadly poison aconitine; you have such a poison purchased by the prisoner shortly before; you have the prisoner's own hand administering the last thing he was ever known to have swallowed; you have the prisoner in desperate straits and need of money; you see him in a position to gain a considerable acquisition of fortune by the death of the deceased. Having all these facts, it will be for you to say whether the prisoner is not, however painful it may be to you, guilty of the terrible crime of which he stands charged.

Evidence for the Prosecution.

W. H. Bedbrook 1. William Henry Bedbrook, examined by Mr. Poland—I am the proprietor of the Blenheim House School at Wimbledon. I had a pupil named Percy Malcolm John. He had been with me three years, and would have been nineteen years of age on 18th December. He was placed with me by Mr. Chapman, his brother-in-law. He was paralysed in the lower limbs and unable to walk, and there were for his use two wheel-chairs, one of which was kept on the second floor, where he slept, and the other in the basement, where he was during the day. In December two or three other boys occupied the same room with him—they were Bell, Hay, and another, whose name I do not recollect. It was the custom for one of the boys to



Mr. H. B. Poland.

carry him every morning from the second floor to the basement for him to spend the day, and to carry him up again at night in the same way. On Saturday, 3rd December, he was carried down in the usual way to the basement. I saw him from time to time during the day, and, with the exception of the paralysis in the lower limbs, he was in perfect health and spirits. During the three years he was with me he was only attended by a doctor for ordinary ailments, for no serious illness. He was usually cheerful, but at times despondent. W. H. Bedbrook

Mr. Justice Hawkins—What kind of despondency?—When he saw the other boys enjoying a game; he was particularly fond of games, although not able to join in them.

Examination resumed—On Friday, 2nd December, he was not visited by any one; he informed me that he expected a visit. The letter produced is in the prisoner's handwriting, but I did not see it till after the death. (The letter was read, and was as follows):—

Nelson's Hotel, Great Portland Street,
London, December 1, 1881.

My Dear Percy,—I had intended running down to Wimbledon to see you to-day, but I have been delayed by various matters until it is now nearly six o'clock, and by the time I should reach Blenheim House you would probably be preparing for bed. I leave for Paris and Florence to-morrow, and wish to see you before going. So I purpose to run down to your place as early as I can, for a few minutes even, if I can accomplish no more. Believe me, dear boy, your loving brother,

G. H. Lamson.

On Saturday, 3rd December, the prisoner called at five minutes to seven o'clock in the evening. I cannot say how long it was since I had last seen him; it must have been some weeks. I knew that he was the deceased's brother-in-law, and that he had married one sister and Mr. Chapman the other. I saw the prisoner in the hall when he called, and at first I did not know him—he was very much thinner—and I remarked to him how much he had changed since I had last seen him. I took him through the drawing-room into the dining-room on the ground floor, where the boys usually see their friends. He said he had come to see his brother-in-law, and I sent for the deceased. Mr. Banbury, one of the pupils, carried him up from the basement into the dining-room and put him into a

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chair. The prisoner said to Mr. Banbury, "I thought you would have been in India by this time," referring to his passing into the army. The prisoner then said to the deceased, "Why, how fat you are looking, Percy, old boy," and the deceased replied, "I wish I could say the same of you, George." Mr. Banbury then left the room. I asked the prisoner whether he would have some wine, and he replied that he would take some sherry. Knowing his fondness for sherry, I got a large claret glass from the wagon and poured him out some sherry into it. After a conversation upon several subjects the prisoner asked me for some sugar, saying that these wines contained a large quantity of brandy, and that the sugar would destroy the alcoholic effects. I told him I understood the contrary was the case. I rang the bell for some sugar. Mrs. Bowles, the matron, brought a basin containing white powdered sugar. The prisoner put some sugar into the sherry, stirred it with his penknife, and then drank a portion of the wine. He had a black leather bag with him at the time, and he took from it some Dundee cake and some sweets;* he cut some of the cake with his penknife, and I took some of it and some of the sweets. The deceased took some cake and sweets as well. I did not see the deceased take any wine. The prisoner was eating the cake during the whole of the interview. After talking for some little time upon general matters, at a quarter past seven o'clock the prisoner said, "Oh, by the way, Mr. Bedbrook, when I was in America I thought of you and your boys; I thought what excellent things these capsules would be for your boys to take nauseous medicines in." He then produced two boxes containing capsules from his bag, and passed one in the direction where I was standing, saying, "I should like you to try one, to see how easily they can be swallowed." After examining them I took one out of the box and put it in my mouth.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Were the capsules wrapped in paper or were they open?—They were open.

A full box?—Half-empty.

Examination resumed—The capsules were precisely like these (produced). Holding it in my hand the heat of my hand made

* See remarks on this point in Introduction, p. 6.

it exceedingly soft, and I was able very easily to swallow it. The other box was immediately in front of him. I do not think the capsules were all the same size. While I was examining the capsule, which was empty, I saw the prisoner filling another with sugar from the basin in front of him with a small spade spoon. I could not say where he took it from. He had the capsule between his fingers, and, having apparently filled it with sugar, he said, "If you shake it in this way it will bring the medicine down to one end." He then handed the capsule to the deceased, who was sitting on his right, about a yard from him, and said, "Here, Percy, you are a swell pill taker; take this, and show Mr. Bedbrook how easily it may be swallowed," or words to that effect. The deceased placed the capsule in his mouth as far back as he could to the root of the tongue, and with one gulp it was gone. I remarked, "That's soon gone, my boy." The prisoner then said, "I must be going now." I at once looked at the time-card to see the next train for London; it was then 7.20 or thereabouts, and I told him the next train left at 7.21, and advised him to go at once or he would miss it; I had previously asked him to remain a little longer till the next train, which was 7.50. He said, "I cannot, because I have to catch a train at eight o'clock at London Bridge *en route* for the Continent." He told me he was going to Florence *via* Paris. W. H. Bedbrook

Mr. Justice Hawkins—How far is your house from the station?—Not a minute's walk.

Examination resumed—He stayed more than another minute, and I remarked that he would miss the train if he did not go at once. He said, "I intend to go to Florence for a few months for the benefit of my health, and then return and settle down in England." He then said good-bye to the deceased. I accompanied him through the drawing-room to the street door, and remarked to him that I thought the curvature of the deceased's spine was getting worse. He said that he did not think the boy could last long. I made no reply. He left the house at twenty-one or twenty-two minutes past seven o'clock, leaving behind the two boxes of capsules. I placed them upon the wagon in the dining-room.

How many minutes elapsed after the deceased had swallowed

W. H. Bedbrook

the capsule before the prisoner said, "I must be going"?—Not five minutes.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—What became of the remainder of the cake and sweets?—They were left on the dining-room table.

Examination resumed—When was the sugar removed?—Probably in the course of an hour.

On that evening you had visitors?—I had.

There were two young ladies in the dining-room, who played and sang?—Yes, for about ten minutes.

Did you leave the room with them?—Yes, and returned in a few minutes. Percy John was still there alone.

When you went back on that occasion did he complain to you of illness?—He said, "I feel as if I had an attack of heartburn." I returned to my guests, and left him reading some papers which the prisoner had left with him.

Mr. Williams—I should like to take your lordship's opinion as to taking as evidence what was said.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—I shall take anything with regard to his symptoms. There is nothing improper at present.

Mr. Williams—I shall object to anything but what was said as to his symptoms.

Examination resumed—Then, when did you return to him?—In about five minutes.

What state was he then in?—He said to me, "I feel as I felt after my brother-in-law had given me a quinine pill at Shanklin," and he said he should like to go to bed. I gave orders that he should be taken to bed, and Mr. Bell, a fellow-pupil, carried him upstairs; that was between eight and nine o'clock; about half an hour afterwards I received a communication as to his state, and went up into his bedroom, and found him lying on the bed in his clothes, apparently in great pain and vomiting violently; I saw the vomit on the floor, on the bed, and in a basin. The matron and Mr. Godward, a junior master, were in attendance upon him. The deceased appeared to be in great pain, and was throwing himself about most violently. He complained that his throat appeared to be closing, and his skin seemed to be drawn up. I left the room for a time, leaving the matron there and Mr. Godward and one or two of the boys. I returned shortly to find that he was much worse. Dr. Berry had just arrived as a guest, and

I got him to go and see him. Dr. Little was likewise in the house, and those two attended the deceased till his death, at about 11.30. I was in the bathroom the same evening and saw some of the vomit there, and also on the floor, and a small quantity in the pan. W. H. Bedbrook

On the following morning did you go and give information to the police?—I did.

To Inspector Fuller?—Yes.

On the night of his death was an envelope brought to Percy John containing money?—Yes; it was brought to my house for him. I do not know what has become of the envelope. I opened it inadvertently, and apologised to him for having done so. I gave information to Inspector Fuller next morning. He came to my house, and I gave him the two boxes of capsules, which had been left in the dining-room. I had noticed that the boxes contained some white pills in addition to the capsules. The label produced, with the name "George Henry Lamson, M.D., care of H. G. Gilling & Co., 499 Strand, London, England," was lying at the bottom of one of the boxes. I gave it to Inspector Fuller, and the cake and sweets and a sample of sugar, and also the whole of it, and a bottle of sherry. Two of the deceased's boxes were searched; I am not certain whether on the Sunday or Monday. A small box of quinine powders was found. I had seen the box before in the bedroom and dining-room and in the basement. The powders were given to Inspector Fuller. A box containing two pills wrapped in tinfoil was afterwards brought to me by the matron, and I gave it to the inspector. I had received a box similar to that by post from America from the prisoner with a letter. I have searched everywhere for the letter, but cannot find it, and I am persuaded that I destroyed it. It must have been about the beginning of 1881. The box contained from ten to twelve pills. The letter stated that the prisoner had met some one in America suffering from a similar complaint, and had derived great benefit from taking medicine similar to that forwarded.

Anything more?—The letter asked me to see that the boy took his medicine.

Did you, after you received the pills, see Percy John?—I did. I went to his bedroom and gave him one of the pills.

W. H. Bedbrook

Did he take it?—I did not wait to see, but the next morning he complained of feeling very unwell.

Do you remember what he said?—I cannot remember. I think he said, "I will take no more of the pills." The box was lying on the bed, and I took it downstairs. I was under the impression I had thrown it away, till it was found, containing pills coated in tinfoil in the same way, but how it got into his possession I do not know.

Did you see some wafers found?—Yes, and they were given to Inspector Fuller.

On the day Percy John died did you have all your meals with him?—I did. Breakfast, early dinner, and tea.

He had had his tea before prisoner came to see him?—Yes; about an hour and a quarter before.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Had he anything else so far as you know?—Not that I am aware of.

Examination resumed—Did he have for breakfast bread and butter and coffee?—Yes; for dinner, stewed rabbits, onion sauce, potatoes, bread, and bread and butter pudding; and for tea, bread and butter and tea with its usual accompaniments. He used sometimes to go to his brother-in-law's, Mr. Chapman's, at Willesden, and also to the prisoner's at Bournemouth. At Shanklin also he stayed with Mr. Chapman.

Were you ever a director of any railway?—No.

Or of a steamboat company?—No.

Did you speak to prisoner about a bad boat on a particular night?—No.

Cross-examined by Mr. Montagu Williams—Who would give medicine to any particular pupil?—The matron or myself.

That would be such medicine as was prescribed by doctors visiting the school?—Yes.

You say you told prisoner that the curvature of the spine was getting worse; had you not thought that it had been getting worse?—Yes.

And in answer to that the prisoner said he did not think the boy would last long?—He did.

He had made that observation before to you on other occasions?—He had.

Did you know that the deceased had contemplated spending

his Christmas holidays with the prisoner and his wife?—No; I did not know that. W. H. Bedbrook

Had he written a letter to his sister to that effect?—Not that I know of. This post-card is in his handwriting—

December 3, 1881.

Dear old Kitten,—We break up on the 20th, Tuesday. I will write and tell you by what train I intend to come.—Yours, &c.

To Mrs. G. H. Lamson, Tangmore Hotel, Tangmore, near Chichester, Sussex.

On the occasion of the prisoner's visit I told him I was glad he had not come the day before, as the deceased was undergoing a school examination, and he had generally been excited in his examinations. When the capsules were taken out of the bag the prisoner was sitting down. I was standing the whole time, and was above them. The deceased was on the prisoner's right, about a yard from him. When the prisoner put the sugar into the capsule he was sitting. I took one of the capsules quite at haphazard from the box, looked at it, and swallowed it. I said before the magistrate, "While he was taking wine and conversing I saw the prisoner filling a capsule with sugar, which he took out of a basin with a spade-spoon." I swallowed one that was empty. He had the capsule in his left hand, and I saw him take the sugar into the shovel in his right hand and put it into the capsule.

Did you say deceased sat very close to him?—Yes.

And that the sugar basin was directly in front of him?—Yes.

Had you seen the quinine powders in the possession of deceased?—Yes, and I was aware he was taking them.

You said there were eleven or twelve pills in the box when they came from America?—About that number.

And you say deceased had only taken one?—I had only given him one.

And the next day you took the box away?—Yes, I was under that impression.

Did you say before the magistrates, "I gave one pill to the deceased, took the box downstairs, and thought I had thrown it away"?—Yes.

W. H. Bedbrook

Did you go on to say, "I am certain I did not give the box back to the deceased"?—Yes.

And in point of fact you never saw the box again until after the boy's death?—I did not.

Did you further say, "I am not certain that the two pills found in the box were those which came from America or not"?—I may have said so. I think I qualified it by saying they were similar.

Did you say, "I cannot recollect whether the letter from America said anything about the pills or not"?—I believe I did.

That "There were directions on the box as to the pills"?—Yes.

And that "The pills were to be administered to the deceased"?—Yes.

Now, you have stated to-day that the letter gave directions about the pills?—I have since remembered that the letter said something about it.

The deceased had suffered from paralysis ever since you had known him?—Yes.

He was unable to take any exercise?—He was unable to walk.

About what size was the dining-room?—About 16 or 17 feet.

From the time prisoner left how long was the deceased in the dining-room alone?—Not more than two or three minutes.

And then did you leave the room again?—Yes.

For how long?—It may have been ten minutes.

Was he alone during that time?—I cannot say alone, for I found Banbury with him when I came back.

And then it was he complained of being ill with heartburn?—Yes.

There were only two boxes of capsules, and both were left behind?—They were.

How many of those left behind had little pills or comfits in them?—Two or three.

All articles left behind were handed to the police?—Yes.

Did you partake of the sweets?—Yes.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Who partook of the cake?—The prisoner, Percy, and myself.

Cross-examination resumed—Who cut the cake?—The prisoner did.

Can you say in which of the boxes you found the comfits or pills?—No, I cannot. I think I saw them first. W. H. Bedbrook

Had you noticed anything about deceased except the curvature of the spine?—No.

Had you noticed that affected his health?—No; he had been better during the last term than he had been any time before.

By the JURY—No special kind of sugar was asked for. It was the ordinary white powdered sugar.

Mr. JUSTICE HAWKINS—Did you know of anybody else taking a capsule that night?—No.

2. WALTER EDWARD BANBURY—In December last I was a pupil at Mr. Bedbrook's. I had been there for eight years, and knew the deceased very well; he was an intimate friend of mine. After breakfast on the morning of 3rd December I had to go to town for an examination, and I returned by the 5.30 train from Waterloo. On my arrival at Mr. Bedbrook's I found the boys at tea, the deceased being among the number. After tea I showed the deceased the examination papers. He said they were rather difficult. I remained with him till he was sent for to go upstairs. That was a quarter of an hour after I had finished tea. At that time he was in good health and spirits. I carried him up from the basement into the dining-room. I there saw the prisoner, whom I had known previously. I remained a short time, and then left. After the prisoner had left, and before the deceased was taken to bed, I went into the dining-room, remained five or six minutes, took a capsule, but it had no effect on me. In consequence of what I heard I went to the deceased's bedroom, looked into the door, and went down again. The deceased was lying on the bed, and several persons were round him. I again went up and saw him in bed. He was struggling very hard with those who were holding him down. I remained a short time, and then left, and I was not present when the deceased died. W. E. Banbury

Cross-examined—I knew the prisoner, and had been to stay at his house at Bournemouth with the deceased in the summer of 1880. I had seen the box of quinine powders in the possession of the deceased, and had taken one of the powders, but it had no ill-effects on me. I did not take it out of the box; Percy gave it me. I took it in one of the wafers pro-

W. E. Banbury duced. I had three or four times seen the deceased get powders from the box, and take them in wafers. On 3rd December, after the prisoner had gone, I took one of the capsules from a box on the table and swallowed it; it was an empty one. When I came down after the prisoner had gone I found Mr. Bedbrook with the deceased. Mr. Bedbrook left the room. I remained five or six minutes, and then left, leaving the deceased alone, and I next saw him nearly an hour later in his bedroom.

Re-examined—At the time the young ladies were there Mr. Bedbrook was at the piano. I do not think he saw me enter. I do not think I went into the room again before the deceased was carried upstairs.

Joseph Bell 3. Joseph Bell—I was a pupil at Mr. Bedbrook's last December, and was on intimate terms with the deceased. We slept in the same room. I had breakfast with him on 3rd December, and was with him a great part of the morning. We did no work that morning; it was a holiday. I went out at ten o'clock for a walk, and did not return till about 6 p.m. for tea. He was there then. Tea was over when I came in. I sat by the deceased in the dining-room; he was in very good spirits and health. He was taken up by Banbury to the dining-room, and later in the evening I was called up there. I took him up to his bedroom. He complained of heartburn, and I carried him up on my back to his bedroom. I sat him on his bed, went downstairs again, and told Mrs. Bowles. I did not go up again till I went up to bed, between eight and nine o'clock. I then found him in the bathroom vomiting; that is on the same floor as the water-closet.

Cross-examined—I said before the magistrate, "I took him upstairs from the dining-room about five minutes to nine o'clock; I carried him up."

Re-examined—I afterwards added, "I think it was about five minutes to nine o'clock, but I can't fix the time."

The Court adjourned at 4.15.

Second Day—Thursday, 9th March, 1882.

The Court met at 10.30.

4. Mary Ann Bowles—Examined by Mr. Poland—I am matron at Mr. Bedbrook's school, and was so in December last. I knew the deceased, and saw him on Saturday, 3rd December. He was in perfect health and excellent spirits. On that evening, before the prisoner came, charades were being played by the boys. M. A. Bowles

Did Percy John take part in them?—Yes.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—How late did you see him guessing charades?—The charades were before tea. I saw him after tea as late as 6.30. Up to that time he was in good health and spirits.

Examination resumed—That evening I was told to fetch some sugar, and got some off the kitchen dresser. It was in a glass sugar basin with an electro frame, and had a spade spoon in it for the purpose of ladling it out. The sugar had been in use in the house for two days previously. It was what is commonly called "castor sugar." I took it up to the dining-room and placed it on the table. The deceased, Mr. Bedbrook, and the prisoner were in the room. I left the room after taking the sugar up.

About what time after you left the sugar did you receive a communication respecting Percy John?—In about half an hour.

Did you go to him in the dining-room?—No, I went downstairs and ordered Bell to take him up to bed.

Did you see him in the dining-room before he was taken up to bed?—I did.

What condition did he seem in?—He did not say anything to me then.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—But what condition did he seem in?—He did not seem so well as when I saw him last.

Examination resumed—Bell took him up to bed?—Yes.

Did you see a capsule in Bell's hand?—I did.

M. A. Bowles How soon after he was taken upstairs did you go and see him?—I should think about twenty minutes to half an hour.

Did you go in consequence of a communication made to you?—Yes.

And where did you find him?—I found him in the bathroom vomiting.

Did he appear in pain?—In very great pain.

What did you order to be done to him?—I ordered him to be taken into his bedroom, and gave him brandy and water.

In the bedroom did he appear in great pain?—Great pain.

Do you remember Dr. Berry coming?—Yes. He was the doctor who usually attended the pupils, and was in the house that night. Subsequently Dr. Little also came up. I remained with him till the time of his death. He remained in violent pain till he died; there was no cessation of the pain. He seemed to grow a great deal worse, and had to be held down to his bed. Both Dr. Berry and Dr. Little were then present. I saw the deceased's boxes searched and the box of quinine powders found in his clothes-box, which was kept in his bedroom. I had seen that box before in the clothes-box. I do not know to whom the box of powders was given. I found the tin box containing the two pills in the deceased's play-box, which was usually kept downstairs in the clothes-room.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Do you know where it was when he died?—No.

Examination resumed—Do you know to whom you gave the box of pills?—No.

Do you know to whom the remainder of the sugar was given?—To Inspector Fuller.

And to whom was the sherry given that remained in the dining-room?—To Inspector Fuller.

And the cake, sweets, and wafers, to whom were they given?—To Inspector Fuller.

Cross-examined by Mr. Montagu Williams—I think you said before the magistrates that the box was taken up to the clothes-room two or three days before?—No.

You said before the magistrates that it was brought up before death?—That must be a mistake, as it was not brought up till after his death.

Evidence for Prosecution.

Was Percy John talking to Bell in the dining-room when you went upstairs?—Yes. It was about half an hour after when I saw him in the bathroom. I had been at Mr. Bedbrook's fourteen months while he was a pupil there. I had noticed that the curvature of the spine was getting worse. I was in the habit of conversing with him very often. I did not know that he had written that day to the prisoner's wife to say by what train he was coming down to spend his Christmas holidays with her. I knew he had spent his holidays from time to time at the prisoner's. I knew that he had been from time to time amusing himself with chemistry. Usually speaking, it would be my duty to give medicine to the boys.

M. A. Bowles

Mr. Justice Hawkins—You mean medicine prescribed for them?—I have given medicine on my own account.

But suppose a medical man sent medicine, would you administer it, or hand it over to the boy?—I should administer it.

Re-examined—You told my friend that Percy John had amused himself with chemistry?—The deceased had not amused himself with chemistry during the last term, which commenced in September. The chemicals were kept in a cupboard on the first floor. I did not have charge of them. During the 3rd of December from the time he was carried down in the morning till he was taken up again at night, he had not been up to the first floor. I was a good deal upstairs on the first and second floors attending to household duties that day. After his death I found this letter in his coat pocket. (Letter produced—read in Mr. Bedbrook's evidence.)

Mr. Williams—This day had been a holiday at school?—Yes.

You said before the magistrates, "On 3rd December I did not see the deceased during the afternoon"?—That was a mistake.

Another mistake?—Yes.

Did you say it?—Yes. I misunderstood the question.

Was your evidence before the magistrates read over to you?—Yes.

Did you correct the mistake?—No.

Why not?—I did not notice it till I saw it in the papers after.

Do you wish to correct it now?—Yes.

M. A. Bowles Now, tell us, did you see him in the afternoon?—Yes.

Where?—In the lower dining-room, the basement—the same room where the box of pills was found after his death. I saw him frequently during the afternoon, and as late as 6.30 in the evening. The dinner was at one o'clock that day, and it was after dinner that I saw him in the dining-room. I was attending to my duties in different parts of the house during the afternoon, and in the morning I was engaged in the clothes-room. That was in the same house as Percy's bedroom and as the downstairs dining-room.

Does the school consist of one house?—Of two houses.

Your duties take you to both houses?—Yes.

Mr. Poland—Have the houses internal communication?—Yes.

So that you do not have to go outside one to get to the other?—No.

Mr. Williams—Do you remember being examined before the coroner?—Yes.

Did you say, "I saw the deceased in the bathroom shortly after. He was very ill and vomiting"?—Yes.

Did you say this, "He said he had taken a quinine pill"?—Yes.

When?—He said his brother-in-law had given it to him.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Do you recollect the words?—Yes; he said, "My brother-in-law has given me a quinine pill."

Where did he say that?—In the bathroom.

When he was in such pain and vomiting?—Yes.

Was that all he said?—No.

What else?—I asked him if the pill he had taken at Shanklin had made him feel as bad, and he said "No."

Mr. Poland—Was that all that was said?—He told me that his skin was drawn up.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—What were his words?—He said, "My skin feels all drawn up."

Anything more?—"And my throat burning."

Mr. Poland—That is all you remember?—That is all.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—When was this communication held?—At the time he was in the bathroom.

When he was vomiting there?—Yes.

Mr. Williams—How long after the boy's death was it that

you were examined before the coroner?—I cannot say exactly how long. M. A. Bowles

Were you examined on the first day of the inquest?—No.

Did you say a word before the coroner about quinine pills his brother had given him?—No.

Mr. Poland—Were you examined at any length before the coroner?—No; I did not sign the depositions.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Could Percy John walk at all?—No, my lord.

If he were seated in one part of the room, and wanted to get something in another part of the room, could he get up?—No, my lord.

Then, could he communicate with any one?—He had a chair in which he could wheel himself to any part of the room or floor.

About how high was the seat of the chair?—(The witness indicated the height of an ordinary chair.)

Could he get out of the chair?—Yes; he could get out of the chair and sit upon the floor.

Could he get back again?—Yes.

Could he get by himself without assistance upstairs?—I never knew him to do so.

You say you knew that he had spent holidays at the prisoner's—when did he spend the last holiday with him?—He spent the last midsummer holiday with him at Shanklin.

When did he go?—I cannot say.

What have you seen him doing when amusing himself with chemicals?—Very little.

But what was he doing?—I don't understand chemicals. I never saw him do anything than make some kind of gas.

By the Jury—The lock of the deceased's clothes-box in his bedroom in which the quinine powders were kept was broken, and there was no key to it; any person could get to the box. I do not know whether there was a lock on the play-box containing the box of pills, but it was not kept locked; it was open to all. He amused himself with chemicals simply for pastime, not for study. I only saw him making gas. The medicines and chemicals were kept in the same cupboard, which was not locked; it had a button, but anybody could go to it. There is a communication between the two

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WITHDRAWN

M. A. Bowles houses both on the basement and on the first floor, but not on the top floor. The deceased's bedroom was on the third floor. I call the first floor the one above the basement; I do not call that the ground floor.

W. H. Bedbrook 5. WILLIAM HENRY BEDBROOK, recalled—I had some chemicals in my house. They were kept in the cupboard on the first floor, the floor above the basement. It was fastened by a button within a few inches of the top—about 6 feet 6 inches from the floor. You can reach it standing. They were principally acids used in making gases, oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen. They were kept entirely for the use of my science master, Mr. Eastwick. The last term ended on 29th July, and the Christmas term commenced on 18th September, as near as I remember. During the term beginning 18th September the deceased did not use any of these chemicals, and none of the other pupils did. The deceased used them frequently during the previous term, both alone and in my presence. They were kept on the second shelf of the cupboard, 4 feet from the ground.

By Mr. WILLIAMS—The chemicals were sulphuric and nitric acids, and so on, but I will not be certain. There was no sulphate of zinc. I have seen portions of zinc metal. I have heard that sulphuric acid poured on to zinc forms sulphate of zinc. I am not a chemist. I have seen zinc dropped into a bottle and the gas freed by the application of sulphuric acid. When the deceased was in the habit of using chemicals he did so for the purpose of making gas.

By Mr. POLAND—Some chemicals of the same kind are in the cupboard now. The deceased could not reach the shelf, 4 feet from the ground. He would have to call in the aid of another person if he wanted to get them. He was in the habit of being waited upon by the other boys.

Alex. Watt 6. ALEXANDER WATT—I am classical master at Mr. Bedbrook's school. I was with the deceased on 3rd December a considerable part of the day in the lower dining-room, till after tea, about six o'clock. Up to that time he was in his ordinary health and spirits. I had taken meals with him. The next time I saw him was between eight and nine, in the

bathroom, and apparently in great pain. He was vomiting. I afterwards saw him in his bedroom, and attended upon him till he died. **Alex. Watt**

Cross-examined—When I got into the bathroom I found the matron there, I think, and Mr. Godward.

7. Alfred Godward—I was assistant master at Mr. Bedbrook's. I had been there for two years. On 3rd December I saw the deceased in the schoolroom, which is an outbuilding, just before nine o'clock. He was in his usual state of health. I then took the boys for a walk. I next saw him at a little after twelve in the dining-room. I had dinner with him, and saw him again until a quarter-past two o'clock He was in his usual health. I then went home. I next saw him between half-past seven and eight o'clock in the bathroom. I remained with him. He was vomiting. I helped to wheel him into his bedroom, which was on the same floor. I put him on his bed and undressed him. He appeared to be in pain, and was restless. I remained with him until Dr. Berry came, and I was there when Dr. Little came. I stayed until a little before eleven o'clock. While in the bedroom he appeared to get worse. I helped to hold him on his bed. He was retching, and he vomited. **A. Godward**

Cross-examined—It was nearly eight o'clock when I was in the bathroom—he was alone; the boys were outside. The matron came into the bathroom after I arrived. I remained with him all the time he was in the bathroom, except for a few minutes while I went down to see the matron. I first sent a boy down, and subsequently I went down myself, and returned before the matron. I left the bedroom once, and was absent not more than ten minutes. I left the matron and the doctors there. That was quite an hour and a half before his death. When I returned the matron and doctors were still there.

Re-examined—It was about a quarter of an hour from the time the matron came into the bathroom before he was taken to his bedroom. He spoke to me as to his symptoms. He said he felt that his skin felt all drawn up, and also that his mouth was very painful. I do not think he described any other symptoms. He said he had taken a pill that his

A. Godward brother-in-law had given him. He said two or three moments afterwards that it was a quinine pill. He said that first before Mrs. Bowles came into the room, and several times afterwards. In Mrs. Bowles' presence he said, "I have taken a quinine pill which my brother-in-law gave me." Mrs. Bowles spoke to him, but I can't tell you what she said. He said, "I took one before at Shanklin, and was nearly as bad then."

Mr. WILLIAMS—I was not examined at the inquest. I went there. I do not think I have ever before stated in evidence that the deceased said he had taken a quinine pill which his brother-in-law had given him. Mr. Bedbrook was not present when this conversation about Shanklin took place. I have a distinct recollection of what was said. The deceased told Mrs. Bowles that he had taken one before at Shanklin, and was nearly as bad. I do not remember that Mrs. Bowles made any remark; she asked him what he had taken, and that was the answer to her question.

Mr. JUSTICE HAWKINS—He made several observations, but I do not remember them?—I do not remember any further observations about the pill.

M. A. Bowles 8. MARY ANN BOWLES, recalled by the JURY—It was my duty to give the boys medicine when they required it. I gave the deceased medicine once; that was before we broke up for the midsummer holidays. I used to keep the medicine by me; they were seidlitz powders and pyretic saline; no other medicines. I do not remember any chemicals being procured for or by any of the pupils other than those allowed by the masters.

Mr. JUSTICE HAWKINS—The deceased's second-best clothes were kept in his clothes box, and any particular book that he chose to keep there. If he wanted anything from his box he had to get somebody to get it for him; he could not get it himself. The play-box was kept in a cupboard in the lower dining-room. He could get at that without assistance, by wheeling his chair to the cupboard. The clothes box was in his bedroom.

O. W. Berry 9. OTHER WINDSOR BERRY—I am a surgeon and registered medical practitioner, practising at Wimbledon. I knew the deceased Percy Malcolm John, and had known him about a

year and a half. I had frequently seen him before the 3rd of December. I had attended him for one slight illness in March, 1881, while he was at school. It was a little skin eruption. In June, 1881, I vaccinated him. Those were the only occasions. With the exception of the paralysis of his lower limbs, his health I believe was generally good. O. W. Berry

On Saturday, 3rd December, you were at the school?—Yes.

Did you go up to his bedroom?—Mr. Bedbrook met me at his hall door about five minutes to nine.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—I understood you were there as a guest?—Yes.

Mr. Poland—Did Mr. Bedbrook take you upstairs?—He did.

On one of the beds you found Percy Malcolm John undressed?—Yes.

In what state was he?—In great pain.

Did he say where?—In his stomach.

Anywhere else?—He complained of the skin of his face being drawn up; of a sense of constriction in his throat, and being unable to swallow.

Was he retching?—He was.

And did he vomit?—He did.

What was the nature of the vomit?—A small quantity of dark-coloured fluid.

Did you ask him anything as to the cause of his illness?—Very shortly afterwards I did.

Did Mr. Bedbrook make a communication to you?—Yes when he was taking me up to the room.

Did you ask Percy John anything?—I said, "Did your brother-in-law ever give you a quinine pill before?" He said, "Yes." I then asked him when. He said, "At Shanklin." I then asked, "Did it make you ill like this before?" He answered, "Yes, but not so bad." I then asked, "Did your brother-in-law know that it had made you ill like this?" He answered, "I cannot say" That, as near as I can charge my memory, was what passed. There was nothing in an ordinary quinine pill that could produce such symptoms as those I saw. I did not at that time form any opinion as to what the symptoms were due to. I had some white of egg beaten up in water and given to him. That was during the intervals of his vomiting. He was able to swallow

G. W. Berry partially. I had hot linseed poultices put to his stomach. He was very restless on the bed; violently so, throwing himself backwards and forwards, and from side to side. Several people held him to prevent him from injuring himself. He did not improve at all under this treatment, and learning that Dr. Little was in the house I had him sent for; I knew him as a doctor also practising at Wimbledon. I had been in the bedroom with Percy John about twenty or twenty-five minutes when Dr. Little came up. We consulted as to the best thing to be done, and determined to inject morphia. I left the house to fetch an instrument for the purpose, and the morphia. I was away five or ten minutes. When I returned the deceased was no better, and I injected a quarter of a grain of morphia under the skin over the region of the stomach. That was about ten o'clock. The symptoms abated somewhat, though not very much, about 10.30; they were still all present, but in a modified degree. They returned again a little before eleven o'clock as severe as before the morphia was administered.

Did he say anything about the morphia?—Yes; a little before eleven he asked to have the morphia administered again.

Did he complain of any physical pain?—He complained of pains in his body.

In any particular part?—No.

Then did you inject a sixth of a grain of morphia as before?—Yes; that was done at about eleven o'clock.

Did that have any apparent effect?—No.

Did you notice any change in him after that?—Yes; about ten minutes after eleven he became a little unconscious and wandering in his remarks.

That was the first time you had noticed that?—Yes.

Did you notice anything about his breath?—Yes; his breath became slower and sighing, and the action of the heart became weaker and weaker. I gave him a little brandy and water. He never rallied.

What time did he die?—About twenty minutes past eleven o'clock.

Did you then form an opinion as to the cause of the symptoms?—I believed that he had taken something of an irritant nature

into his stomach. That was my judgment from what I saw. After his death Dr. Little and I collected the vomit. There was some in a basin in the bedroom. I went into the bathroom and collected some from the bath and some from the water-closet. The bath was empty. The closet was on the same floor. We found some vomit there on the floor. This we collected and put all together into a breakfast cup, and then into a clean bottle out of my surgery. I afterwards gave the bottle and its contents to Mr. Bond. On Tuesday, 6th December, I and Mr. Bond and Dr. Little jointly made a post-mortem examination. I have the notes I made at the time in the mortuary. With the exception of the paralysis of the lower limbs, he was a particularly muscular, well-developed young man. The brain was slightly congested superficially, and also the substance of the brain. When I said superficially I ought to have said the membranes of the brain. The brain itself was slightly congested. There was no fluid in the ventricles of the brain nor any under the membranes. The pupils of the eyes were dilated, lips pale, tongue bleached and pale. In the right lung there were some old adhesions, at the apex between the lung and the chest wall, the result of inflammation at some previous time. Both lungs were healthy, but considerably congested in the lower part. The heart was healthy muscularly; the valves healthy; it was almost entirely empty and flaccid. There was a small quantity of fluid in the pericardium. The liver was normal in size, intensely congested. The kidneys were normal in size but considerably congested. The spleen was also much congested, but normal in size. The mucous membrane of the stomach was congested throughout, and on the under surface near the larger end of the stomach were six or eight small yellowish-grey patches, a little raised, about the size of a small bean, and towards the smaller end were two or three similar smaller spots. I believed from what I then saw, and I have not changed my opinion, that that was the result of inflammation caused recently before death. The stomach contained 3 or 4 ounces of dark fluid. That was carefully preserved, Mr. Bond taking charge of it. The first portion of the duodenum was greatly congested, and there were patches of congestion in other parts of the small intestine. Portions

O. W. Berry

C. W. Berry

of the intestines themselves were taken by Mr. Bond, who also took possession of the stomach itself, as well as portions of the liver, with the gall bladder, both kidneys, and part or the whole of the spleen. The bladder contained 3 or 4 ounces of urine, which was drawn of and taken possession of by Mr. Bond. There was no inflammation in the peritoneum. We examined the spinal cord; the membranes were greatly congested. These were all the appearances I noted on the post-mortem examination. Except the appearance of the lungs and the curvature of the spine, there was no natural disease.

In your judgment what was the cause of death?—I should say that he died from the effects of some irritant vegetable poison.

Would the administration of an irritant vegetable poison account for all the appearances noticed at the post-mortem?—I believe it would.

Are there certain poisons which are known as vegetable alkaloids?—Yes.

And is aconitine one of them?—Yes.

And would a fatal dose account for those appearances?—The appearances would be consistent with a fatal dose being administered. I have not special knowledge of this matter.

From your general knowledge can you say that these appearances would be consistent with a fatal dose of aconitine?—I believe they might.

Did you ever use aconitine in your own practice?—No.

How long have you been in practice?—About seventeen years. I dispense medicine, but have none of this drug in my dispensary.

Do you know it is a very powerful poison?—I believe it is.

Do you know how soon after the administration of a fatal dose of aconitine the effects would begin?—I have no knowledge from my own experience.

Did you receive the tin box from any one at the house?—No. I received two pills and two capsules from Mr. Bedbrook. The pills were long and oval-shaped. I delivered them to Mr. Bond.

Cross-examined by Mr. Montagu Williams—I think before the magistrate you said that you had not seen a case of poisoning by vegetable alkaloid?—Yes.

And you have no experience of aconitine?—No.

Do you know that aconitine appears in the British Pharmacopœia?—No, I do not. O. W. Berry

Are you acquainted with a book called "Fleming on Aconitine"?—No.

Do you know an unguent-aconitine?—Yes.

And it is used as an ointment by medical men?—Yes.

It is a remedy in long-standing neuralgia?—Yes.

And chronic rheumatism?—I believe so.

It is used internally as well as externally?—Yes; but I do not know anything of aconitine proper.

Is it not used also in cases of erysipelas?—I have heard so.

You say you know nothing of aconitine proper?—That is so.

You have heard of "Morson's Aconitine"?—Yes.

Do you know that it is the strongest aconitine?—I have heard so; but when I speak of aconitine I mean aconite.

Then with regard to aconite?—That is, I know, used internally and externally.

It is used internally for cancer in the stomach?—Yes, and for other complaints.

Are you aware that a grain of aconitine properly blended with twenty pills is advantageous in cases of spinal curvature?—No, I have no experience with aconitine.

Now, this particular night what time did you go to Mr. Bedbrook's?—About five minutes to nine.

You were not fetched?—No, I went there casually.

And you thought the boy was suffering from violent irritation of the stomach?—Yes. I continued to think so up to the time of his death. I had formed no opinion of the cause up to the time of his death. At the time I had no suspicion of vegetable alkaloids. I came to that conclusion after the post-mortem examination, not before, and my opinion was based, not upon any personal knowledge of poisoning by alkaloids, but was formed simply from my general knowledge.

I think you have stated that you have not studied "Fleming on Aconitine"?—Yes.

Have you heard of a book by Turnbull & Skyne?—I do not know either. My object in injecting morphia was to allay the pain and nervous irritation; the white of egg was to allay the irritation of the stomach. I should have felt justified in using

O. W. Berry the morphia for allaying irritation of the stomach arising from natural causes, if accompanied by intense pain, and the same may be said of the white of egg. I was with him altogether rather over two hours. I was absent five or ten minutes during that time. Before his death his remarks became wandering. I examined the spinal cord and the spinal curvature. The spinal cord was healthy, but congested. The existence of paralysis such as I found in the boy was not inconsistent with the healthy state of that part of the spinal cord which I examined. The existence of spinal curvature is not, in my opinion, consistent with healthy bone and healthy intervertebral cartilage. I did not examine the condition of the arteries in the neighbourhood of the curvature. I am not aware that there are many cases in which death has resulted from the effects of the pressure on the arteries in the region of these curvatures. I am not prepared to say that there are not reports of such cases. I cannot undertake to say that death did not result from some such cause as you have sketched out. I did not examine to see the effect of the spinal curvature on the position of the lungs or upon the position of the heart.

Don't you know that in cases of spinal curvature the lungs are much displaced?—Yes; but they were not displaced in this instance, or I should have noticed it.

Are you not aware that in some cases the heart is frequently displaced?—I am.

Then you say this irritation of the stomach you observed was consistent with poisoning by vegetable alkaloid?—Yes.

And yet you have never seen before a case of this description?—My opinion was based upon general experience. I only judged from what I saw. It may be that after death the stomach often appears inflamed. I do not deny that there may be appearances of inflammation from the settling of blood in the stomach after death. I describe aconitia as an irritant vegetable poison, but I have no knowledge of it. Taylor, in his work on poisons, mentions marks which would correspond to what I saw in the boy's body. He does not mention any cases of poisoning by aconitine. I do not know of any medical test for aconitine. What I said with regard to the emptiness of the heart applies to the entire heart; it was nearly empty of blood, and flaccid. While the boy was ill in the bedroom

the vomit was discharged into a basin at first. That was thrown away. O. W. Berry

Mr. Justice Hawkins—I thought you said it was collected?—What was thrown away was vomited before I arrived, or as I arrived.

Mr. Williams—Then what steps did you take to collect that which was saved?—Dr. Little really collected it in my presence. I think he scraped it from the bottom and sides with a spoon, and from the floor of the water-closet. It was all put together. Some poisons are absorbed into the system, and would be found there. I am not an expert as to vegetable alkaloids, and cannot say how the amount which does the work would be calculated. In poisoning by vegetable alkaloids I presume that the traces of the poison which had done its work would be found in the system, but I have no special knowledge on the subject; I only suppose. I cannot say to any conclusion as to the amount of poison which had caused death where some of it had been rejected by vomiting.

But the amount found would not be in excess of the dose taken?—I do not understand the question.

Would you expect to find the amount that has caused death?—That is a question for an expert.

Re-examined—The deceased's remarks became wandering about ten minutes before his death. As far as I could see from the post-mortem examination there was nothing in the condition of the curvature of the spine which could have caused death. Nothing in the position of the lungs or heart attracted my attention. If either of them had been much displaced I do not think I could have failed to observe it. If death had occurred from pressure on the arteries I should not have expected to find the symptoms of local irritation in the stomach. I know from my reading something of the recorded effects of vegetable alkaloids.

10. Edward Stephen Little, M.D.—I live at Merton Road, Wimbledon. On Saturday evening, 3rd December, I went on a visit to Mr. Bedbrook, and was called to see the deceased in his bedroom. He was lying on the bed. Dr. Berry was there. The deceased was in great pain; he was retching, and complained of intense pain in the region of the stomach, E. S. Little

E. S. Little

and also of his skin being drawn up. I remained with him till his death. Morphia was injected on two occasions, but he got worse as time went on, and ultimately died at 11.20. We thought he was suffering from the effects of an irritant poison. The complaints he made and the symptoms exhibited led us to that conclusion. I collected the vomit from the bath and from the floor of the water-closet and bathroom, with a spoon. On Tuesday, 6th December, a post-mortem examination was made by Dr. Bond, Dr. Berry, and myself. Dr. Berry took notes, and they accurately contain what I noticed. I noticed on the surface of the stomach certain patches, which indicated that there had been intense irritation of the lining membrane of the stomach. They were, I should think, of recent date. The cause of death in my opinion was the administration of some poison.

Cross-examined—I have had no experience in cases of death caused by vegetable poison. I said before the magistrates that I had studied poisons, but I do not base my opinion on what I learned in my student days, but on the appearances exhibited during life as well. Both Dr. Berry and I came to the conclusion before his death that the boy was suffering from some irritant poison—probably half an hour or more before his death. We did not apply the stomach pump. I have some knowledge of aconite and its preparations, but none of aconitine. I know it is used as a drug, both internally and externally. Dispensing chemists will weigh less than a grain; sometimes half a grain is sold, or less. I helped to make the post-mortem examination. I did not examine the condition of the arteries in the neighbourhood of the curvature. I am aware that there have been cases of death by pressure on large arteries in the region of a curvature. It was a lateral curvature below the lungs in the lumbar region, and had displaced neither the stomach, lungs, nor heart. The heart was flaccid and very nearly empty. I am aware that displacement of those organs does take place from curvature of the spine, when it is in the dorsal region. The patches on the stomach were of recent date, and indicated acute inflammation. I agree with the statement that that inflammation could not have existed weeks, though it might have existed days.

Re-examined—I only judge from post-mortem appearances.

Such acute inflammation could not exist without the patient suffering. I have no aconitine in my dispensary; it is not a drug I have ever used. The post-mortem examination was made three days after the death. E. S. Little

11. John Fuller (police inspector)—On Sunday morning, 4th December, about 11.30, Mr. Bedbrook came to the police station and gave information with respect to the death. I made some inquiries of Dr. Berry, and in the evening, at nine o'clock, I went to the house, to the dining-room on the ground floor. Mr. Bedbrook was with me. I saw this box of capsules on the table—there were capsules and five pills in it. Four pills were loose and one in a capsule. I took charge of it, and took it to the station with the other things, and locked them up in a desk, and on 6th December handed them to Inspector Butcher. On the same occasion Mr. Bedbrook gave me some sweets, crystallised fruit in a paper, and some cake, and also a sample of sugar, which I saw taken from the basin by Mrs. Bowles. I also received some white powders and two letters—one was from the prisoner to the deceased. I found the quinine powders in a cardboard box in the deceased's box in the dining-room. On it was a label addressed to 449 Strand, "J. W. Littlefield, chemist, Ventnor," and written in ink were the words, "Quinine powders." There were twenty altogether; six large and fourteen small, numbered 7 to 20. All those things I took to the station and locked up, and afterwards gave to Inspector Butcher. On Tuesday, the 6th, I obtained the remaining half of the Dundee cake, and handed it to Inspector Butcher. On the 8th I received from Mr. Bedbrook a tin box containing two pills wrapped up in tinfoil or silvered paper. I enclosed it in an envelope, and left it at the station with Sergeant Trott with this report, to be forwarded to Superintendent Digby. I went to the house again on the 12th, and received the sherry in a decanter. It was placed in a bottle by Mrs. Bowles. She emptied out the glass sugar basin, and I took them both and gave them to Inspector Butcher the same day. John Fuller

Cross-examined—Mrs. Bowles and several students were present when I found the quinine powders in the clothes box

John Fuller

in the dining-room. The larger powders almost fit the box; the others are very much smaller, and were tied round with twine.

Henry Trott

12. HENRY TROTT (police sergeant V 6)—On 9th December I received a coloured envelope from Inspector Fuller. I did not open it. I gave it to Rosier, who took it to Wandsworth.

Wm. Rosier

13. WILLIAM ROSIER (policeman)—On 9th December I received from Trott a coloured envelope marked "Important," addressed to Superintendent Digby, and gave it to Pimley.

Wm. Pimley

14. WILLIAM PIMLEY (police sergeant)—On 9th December I received from Rosier an envelope addressed to Superintendent Digby, marked "Important." I gave it to Davis.

Henry Davis

15. HENRY DAVIS (policeman V 42)—I received from Pimley an envelope addressed "Superintendent Digby, Important," and gave it to him.

C. I. Digby

16. CHARLES ISAAC DIGBY (police superintendent V)—On 9th December I received from Davis a letter containing a small tin box and Inspector Fuller's report. I opened the box; it contained two pills. I made a memorandum on the margin of the report, enclosed it in another envelope, addressed it to Chief Superintendent Williamson, at Scotland Yard, and gave it to Henry Didhams.

The Court adjourned at 4.15.

Third Day—Friday, 10th March.

The Court met at 10.30.

17. Harry Didhams (detective officer B)—On the morning of 9th December I received a letter about 9.30 from Superintendent Digby, and took it to Scotland Yard between eleven and twelve and delivered it personally to Chief Superintendent Williamson. Mr. Williamson opened it in my presence; it contained this report and the tin box produced. The box contained two pills, which appeared to be wrapped in white paper. I left them with Mr. Williamson. H. Didhams

18. Frederick Williamson—I am chief superintendent of police at Scotland Yard. I received this report and tin box. The pills were wrapped in tinfoil. I scratched my initials and the date on the lid of the box, and next day delivered it to Butcher, the officer who had charge of the case. F. Williamson

19. James Wallis Butcher—I am a police inspector, of Scotland Yard. On 6th December I received from Inspector Fuller a cardboard box containing a number of capsules and five white pills, one of them in a capsule, the others loose in the box; another smaller cardboard box with quinine powders and the name of Littlefield upon it. That contained twenty packets of powders, six large and fourteen smaller packets, numbered 7 to 20 inclusive; also half of a Dundee cake, some sweets, and a small portion of white powdered sugar. I handed these things next morning, the 7th, to Dr. Dupré, at the Westminster Hospital. On the night of 10th December I received from Superintendent Williamson the tin box containing two pills, and took it to Dr. Stevenson, at Guy's Hospital, on the morning of the 12th of December. On the same day I received from Inspector Fuller a bottle containing some sherry, J. W. Butcher

J. W. Butcher

and some more white powdered sugar; I took these to Dr. Stevenson on the 14th. On the 16th of December I received a tin box with prepared wafers from Mr. Bedbrook, and delivered it to Dr. Dupré. After the post-mortem examination on the 6th December Mr. Bond gave me a bag to take care of; I returned it the next day undisturbed; it was not locked.

W. H. Bedbrook

20. William Henry Bedbrook, recalled—The box of capsules I handed to Inspector Fuller contained the contents of both boxes which the prisoner had produced on the 3rd of December. I burnt the other box.

Mr. Williams—I could not say when my attention was first called to the capsules after the departure of the prisoner on the 3rd of December. They were lying on the table. I did examine them again that night, but I could not say at what time. I might have examined them twice. Several times after the prisoner left I saw the capsules on the table; they were lying in the two boxes. I did not take any particular notice of them until after the boy's death.

The Jury—I have said that the deceased was better than he had been previously; I told the prisoner as he was leaving that the curvature of the spine was getting worse. I noticed that the boy was sitting a little more on one side. He did not complain of pain. In speaking about the receipt of the letter from the prisoner in America I said the boy was suffering from paralysis. I know nothing of paralysis; I only applied it to what I heard from the boy himself.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—When I spoke of paralysis I meant curvature of the spine, the curvature of the spine having produced an inability to use the lower limbs. It was that inability to use the lower limbs caused by the curvature of the spine which I called paralysis.

Thomas Bond

21. Thomas Bond, M.B. and F.R.C.S.—I am Lecturer on Forensic Medicine at Westminster Hospital. I do not lecture on toxicology; my friend Dr. Dupré takes that part. On 6th December I received from Dr. Berry a bottle containing vomit; I put it in my pocket and took it home and locked it up. The bag I handed to Butcher contained things I had taken from

the body for analysis. With the bottle of vomit I brought a little pill box sealed up; I put it in my cupboard; the next morning I handed the vomit and the pill box to Dr. Dupré. I afterwards received them back from Dr. Dupré and handed them to Dr. Stevenson. Dr. Berry gave me the pill box produced at the time he gave me the vomit. Some portions of the body taken at the post-mortem—the stomach in one bottle, the contents of the stomach in another, one of the kidneys, part of the spleen, and part of the liver in another, part of the small intestine, and part of the large intestine in another, and the urine in another bottle—were in the bag I handed to Butcher. That was all I took. I handed them to Dr. Dupré on the 7th, at the same time that I handed him the vomit and the pill box. I received everything back from Dr. Dupré on the 8th of December, and handed them back to Dr. Stevenson the same day. I received also the same day from Dr. Dupré a box containing capsules, sugar, two packets of sweets, part of a cake, and a bottle, the neck of which had been broken by Dr. Dupré in opening it. Two pieces of paper were handed to me, one by Dr. Berry and one by Inspector Butcher. I handed everything I received from Dr. Dupré to Dr. Stevenson except the two sheets of paper. **Thomas Bond**

22. Auguste Dupre—I am Lecturer on Chemistry at Westminster Hospital. I received certain things from Mr. Bond and Inspector Butcher, and handed back everything the day after to Mr. Bond. **A. Dupre**

23. Other Windsor Berry, recalled—I put these two pills into the box. One was brought up to me by Mr. Bedbrook while I was in attendance on the deceased, and the other one was taken out of one of the capsule boxes after the boy's death. I put the two pills each into a capsule which I got from the box, put them into the box, and sealed them up. **O. W. Berry**

24. William Henry Bedbrook, recalled—I do not recollect taking up one of the pills to Dr. Berry while he was in attendance on the boy; the subsequent events have wiped it entirely out of my memory. If I got it anywhere it must have been from **W. H. Bedbrook**

W. H. Bedbrook

the capsule box. I saw some white pills in the box. I cannot say when I first noticed them.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—I have no recollection of having taken up a pill at all on that night. I do remember seeing pills in the capsule box. I do not remember seeing pills anywhere else that night.

A Juror—It is impossible for me to say whether I had any pills in the house at that time. I had no pills to my knowledge for my own use. Pupils were not allowed to get medicines without my knowledge; they were kept away from the boys.

Thomas Bond

25. Thomas Bond, recalled—I have had large experience in making post-mortem examinations. I have made about a dozen in which persons have died from poisoning. I have not been very much consulted in cases of persons suffering from poison; I have made post-mortem examinations in accidents by poison, but I have never before been engaged in a criminal prosecution. I made this post-mortem examination with Dr. Berry and Dr. Little on 6th December. (The Court then read over to the witness Mr. Berry's evidence of the post-mortem examination.) That correctly describes the appearances seen, but it omits to mention that the whole of the lungs were somewhat congested, the posterior part exceedingly so, and I think it omits to say that the body was not decomposed. I received from Dr. Berry an account of the symptoms observed during the illness of the deceased.

Taking into consideration the symptoms and time of the illness of the deceased and the appearances at the post-mortem, was there anything in your opinion to account for death from natural causes?—No, nothing in my opinion.

To what, in your judgment, was death to be attributed?—To poison.

What description of poison, in your judgment, was death due to?—I thought it was a vegetable alkaloid.

How do vegetable alkaloids act?—In various ways. There are several classes of them.

Is aconitine or aconite one of the vegetable alkaloid poisons?—It is a vegetable alkaloid.

Thomas Bond

Is aconitine a very powerful poison?—Yes.

Could a fatal dose of aconitine be contained in one of the capsules?—Yes, I have no doubt of it.

Were the appearances you saw at the post-mortem examination such as you would expect to find supposing that death had been caused by a dose of aconitine?—Yes.

You have spoken of having seen grey patches on the coat of the stomach—what do those patches indicate?—Intense irritation. The irritation which caused the patches must have caused pain to the patient. Intense irritation would be likely to give great pain, and the irritation indicated by the patches would produce vomiting. The principal curvature of the spine was in the lower part of the body. There was a slight curvature forward in the upper part of the spine. There was no curvature to affect the position of the heart and lungs relatively to each other. The cavities of the chest appeared to me deeper from before backwards than usual, from the bending of the spine forward. The heart was in its right position except that it was higher up in the body than is normal. In the lower region there was a good deal of lateral curvature. I examined the spinal cord down as far as the end of the dorsal vertebræ. I found the membranes very much congested, but otherwise it was to all appearance quite healthy. I did not examine it with the microscope. I did not open the spinal canal in the lower lumbar region. The parts were very twisted, and I had difficulty in getting it open. No disease there could have caused sudden death.

Did the curvature appear to be of long standing?—Yes; the bones were very hard, and there was no active disease there.

It has been suggested that death might have been caused by pressure upon the arteries produced by curvature. In your opinion could that have been so?—I think it is impossible.

Cross-examined by Mr. Montagu Williams—How many cases have you seen of death by aconitine?—I have never seen one, unless the present is such a case.

How long after taking enough aconitine to cause death would you expect the symptoms to appear?—I should think about half an hour.

Would you expect them to come in a few minutes?—No, but it

Thomas Bond would depend upon the condition of the stomach, whether empty or full. The symptoms would occur much sooner on an empty stomach; I do not know whether it would depend on the amount of the dose. I believe it would be possible to cause death by aconitine in so small a dose that it could not be found in the stomach, but so large a dose might be given that it would be quite easy to find it; whether it would be found depends on the amount. My opinion is that if death was caused by an ordinary amount traces would be found, but not all the amount. Enough aconitine to cause death might be given, and leave no trace in the stomach of aconitine. I do not agree that the poison found on analysis would be over and above that which was used in causing death, unless it means that a small quantity had been absorbed, which caused death, leaving a larger portion in the stomach which did not cause death; I mean that the poison which may have caused death has been removed from the stomach to the other organs, and it is quite possible that a larger amount may be left behind in the stomach than the portion which has been removed and caused death.

Would it be decomposed in the case of death?—No, I cannot say.

Can you answer one way or the other?—No, I cannot give a decided answer. I really do not know anything about aconitine.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—He says he knows nothing at all about it, and you cannot make evidence of something of which he knows nothing.

Mr. Williams—But I do not wish to be told by and by, when making my observations, that I should have asked the question. If Mr. Bond will say he knows nothing at all about it I will not put any further questions on the subject.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—I have taken his answer like this, "I do not know anything about poison by aconitine, so that I cannot say one way or the other."

Mr. Williams—You say the ventricles of the heart were empty?—Yes, and the auricles.

Can you produce any case on record with such symptoms as those?—No.

Not of poison by aconitine?—No.

Re-examined—I have only had personal experience of poisoning by one vegetable alkaloid, strychnine. Supposing the

poison had been taken in a capsule such as this a longer time would elapse before the symptoms manifested themselves, because the gelatine would have to be dissolved, if it is gelatine. The poison would be first received into the stomach, and then it would be absorbed and passed into the blood, and from the blood into the other organs. I do not know whether what remained in the stomach after death had any part in causing death. It may have caused some local irritation. It may have had some part in it, the vomiting and so on; it would cause irritation like mustard; it might have had some, but I should think a very small part in causing death. The greatest part in causing death was due to that which had passed into the system. I have seen no death from aconitine, and the recorded cases are very rare. **Thomas Bond**

Mr. Justice Hawkins—I do not know enough of the physical action of poisons to be able to say whether, if a dose of poison was received into the stomach three or four times as much as would cause death, the whole would assist in causing death, leaving a diluted poison in the stomach. I am a surgeon. The capsule would take from three to six minutes to melt in the temperature of the stomach. Before the magistrate I said that the patches might have existed days; I meant two or three days. They might only have existed hours; there was nothing to indicate how long. They could not have existed without the person suffering. The time of operation of a poison in powder or liquid would depend upon the dilution. Poison in powder might be in a solution so strong as to be what I may term neat poison. Poison taken in food does not operate as soon as on an empty stomach. On opening the stomach I only found 3 or 4 ounces of a dark pasty fluid, which I preserved. After violent vomiting I should not expect to find much left in the stomach. Different poisons take different times to develop their effects. Any other poison would produce the same local condition of the stomach as aconitine. There are other poisons which would produce the same congestion of the stomach and the little white yellow marks which we found. Any vegetable irritant would do so; a strong solution of oil of mustard, I think, would do the same.

The Jury—A substance received into the stomach would be transmitted into the blood almost immediately. Some substances would be found in the blood within a minute or two,

Thomas Bond

and would therefore reach the heart. Prussic acid would do so in a very few seconds. I should not expect to find any trace of prussic acid in the heart; the heart is not the place. I should expect to find it in the liver and urine in certain poisons.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—You would be more likely to find traces of vegetable alkaloids in the liver, kidneys, and urine than in the heart. I should not expect to find traces of them in the substance of the heart.

Wm. R. Dodd

26. William Ralph Dodd—I am an assistant at Messrs. Allen & Hanbury's, wholesale and retail chemists, of Plough Court, Lombard Street. I remember the prisoner coming there on or about the 24th November. He asked for a piece of paper. I handed him a piece, and he wrote something on it. I do not know what has become of it. I have searched, but cannot find it. I left it on the counter, and have not seen it since. It was such a paper as would be destroyed when the transaction was complete. He wrote on it, "Aconitia, 2 grains. G. H. Lamson, M.D., Bournemouth, Hants," and the date in the left-hand corner. He handed it to me. I read it. I referred to this "Medical Directory" (produced), and I found his name and address in it. I then proceeded to weigh the aconitia, 2 grains. When weighing poisons it is the practice to call another assistant to test the weighing and see that the proper weight is given to check the weighing. I accordingly called for that purpose an assistant named Betts. After weighing the aconitia I suggested to Dr. Lamson that I should put it into a bottle. He said he did not require it in a bottle, and I therefore wrapped it in a piece of white paper. I labelled it "Aconitia, poison." The name and address of the firm were printed on the label. I wrapped it in another piece of paper, and then handed it him, and he paid me 2s. 6d.; that would be 1s. 3d. per grain, the usual price to a medical man. He left, taking it with him. On the evening of 5th December I read something in an evening newspaper (*The Echo*), and in consequence I had some conversation with Betts. I then referred again to the "Medical Directory," and made a communication with Mr. Hanbury, my employer. I was at first under the impression that what

the prisoner had bought was atropia, the price of which would be about three-halfpence a grain. I then looked at the bottle, and called to mind what price had been paid for the poison bought. We keep Morson's aconitia; that is, Morson, of Southampton Row. Wm. R. Dodd

Cross-examined by Mr. Montagu Williams—I have a fairly accurate memory. I cannot remember the exact date or day of the week this was bought. When I read the newspaper I was first under the impression that what I sold to the prisoner was atropia, so much so that I said to Betts, "Do you remember selling atropia?" referring to this transaction. He said, "Yes." At that time we were both agreed that it was atropia. We could not remember whether it was sulphate of atropia or atropia, but were both under the impression that it was atropia of some sort. We keep a register of poisons, but I made no entry of this transaction in it.

Re-examined—I came to the conclusion that I had made a mistake about three hours after I said that it was atropia. We do not enter into the register of poisons sales to medical men. Aconitia and its preparations is one of the poisons under the Poisons Act. In the sale to one of the public of any poison, the purchaser must be introduced by some person we know. Then we have to enter in our register the date, the name of the purchaser, the name and quantity of the poison sold, the purpose for which it is required, and then to take the signatures of the purchaser and of the person introducing. That is under the statute. If we are satisfied that the purchaser is a medical man, then we need not make those entries.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Is that by statute?

Mr. Poland—Yes, my lord.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—That is why you refer to the "Medical Directory"?—It is.

Then, supposing I came in and gave you a name—Dr. Brown, for instance—and called for aconitia, would you supply me?—I should require you to write it down in my presence.

But if I did so?—That would not be sufficient. It must be done in a formal manner, and then I should require your name and address.

Suppose that I took a name and address out of the "Medical

Wm. R. Dodd

Directory ''?—If I was satisfied that you were a medical man I should let you have it.

How do you test the statement? The applicant may be well dressed and have a very respectable appearance. Is there anything that you satisfy yourself by that the man is not an impostor?—The only thing is the style of writing. The writing of medical men is characteristic.

It is not a question of any irregularity in this case——

Mr. Poland—It may be requisite to have a reference to the statutes. Your lordship will see by these that if the seller is satisfied that the purchaser is a medical man he is justified in supplying it.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—It is not necessary for these purposes that I should consider the sections of the Acts, or say whether or not upon the mere statement that a man is a medical man, the seller is justified in supplying persons without registering them. It may be a question for some one else, but it does not arise here.

Mr. Poland—No doubt the law may require amendment.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Yes; that is what strikes me. It seems to me a curious state of things that any man who can pick up sufficient knowledge to write "aconitine" can be supplied with a dangerous poison of this description. It may be, as you suggest, the law requires amendment, but that question is not a part of this particular case.

Cross-examination resumed—By Mr. Williams—I cannot swear to the day of the week or month the poison was sold. The letter "C" to the entry means "chemist" or "wholesale price," because we sell to chemists at wholesale price. I found on that day there were five different transactions, all initialled "C." I have no doubt as to the prisoner's identity.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—We never sell at wholesale price without putting "C" to the entry. It is used instead of "W.P.," wholesale price. I have not the slightest doubt now that it was aconitia which was sold to the prisoner, and not atropia. The 2 grains would not quite cover a shilling if piled up.

C. E. O. Betts

27. Charles Ernest Oscar Betts—I am in the dispensing department of Messrs. Allen & Hanbury. About 24th November I believe the prisoner came up to my counter and

asked for 2 grains of aconitia. I asked if he was a medical man, and he said, "Yes." I then sent him to the counter at which the witness Dodd was in attendance. I saw Dodd go behind the screen where the poisons were kept. I followed, and found Dodd looking into the "Medical Directory"; I looked into it also. I saw the order written by the prisoner. It was "Aconitia, 2 grains, G. H. Lamson, M.D., Bournemouth, Hants," also the date in figures. I do not remember the day of the month this was. It was between three and four in the afternoon. I saw Dodd take the bottle down; it was labelled "Aconitia." I saw the powder in the scale. I tested the weight; it was 2 grains. It is usual for two assistants to test the weight. On the morning of 6th December I had a conversation with Dodd. He communicated to me something he had seen in the papers. In the first instance I thought it was atropia we had sold. I talked the matter over with Dodd that morning, and I am prepared to state that it was aconitia we sold to the prisoner on that occasion. The wholesale price of atropia is 1½d. a grain, and aconitia 1s. 3d. C. E. O. Betts

Cross-examined—The price of sulphate of atropia would be about 1½d. per grain. It would be sold by the grain and priced by the ounce. It would be about 40s. an ounce, 8s. a drachm. There are 480 grains to the ounce. I have said that I could not swear to the date of the sale. The last witness had asked me if I remembered selling atropia, and I had replied that I did. I was then of opinion that the sale was of atropia. The only doubt was whether it was atropia or sulphate of atropia.

Re-examined—It was on further consideration that I remembered it was aconitia. I remembered that aconitia was lumpy.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Atropia is white, aconitia yellowish white; aconitia is lumpy, and atropia a flocculent powder. An equal bulk being taken of each, atropia would be the heavier.

28. John Edward Stirling—I am an assistant in the shop of Messrs. Bell & Co., chemists, 225 Oxford Street. I know the prisoner by sight. He came to the shop on 11th November. I made up a prescription for him on that day. He wrote it in the shop. This is the prescription as it reads at length—"Hypodermic injection of morphia, 10 grains to the drachm, J. E. Stirling

J. E. Stirling

of that strength, ½ ounce; sulphate of atropia, 1 grain; mix and make a solution." It was initialled "G. H. L.," and under the initials was written, "For own use." The date is in the left corner, "11/11/81." He gave the name of George Henry Lamson. He said he was staying at Nelson's Hotel, in Great Portland Street, not far from the shop. I made up the prescription while he waited, and I gave it to him at the time. I referred to the Medical Directory, as is our custom in such cases. He paid for it at the time, 2s. 9d. I saw him again on the 16th November. He then gave me this prescription, writing it out in the shop—"Hypodermic solution of morphia, 10 grains to the drachm, of that, ½ ounce; sulphate of atropia, 1 grain; mix and make a solution." Underneath was written, "Digitaline, pure, 5 grains," signed, "G. H. Lamson, M.D., &c.; for own use." In the left-hand corner, "16/11/81." He wrote the upper part first. In the course of conversation I asked who was in charge of his practice, and he told me his partner. He said his practice was at Bournemouth. With regard to the digitaline, he led me to infer that he was accustomed to prescribe it himself for internal use. It is the active principle of foxglove, and, taken in large quantities, a poison. I looked at the digitaline in stock, and found it more coloured than I expected. I told him so, and said I would provide him some fresh from the manufacturer in a few days. He laid stress upon its being pure. He said he would call again in a few days. He then struck out the lower part of the prescription relating to digitaline. The first part of the prescription, the mixture of morphia and sulphate of atropia I made up, and he took it with him. He paid 2s. 9d. A few days afterwards, after 20th November, he called again; I cannot say how near that date. He then asked for 1 grain of aconitine. I do not recollect the exact words. I do not remember the details of the conversation; he said it was for internal use. I declined to give it him. I recommended him to apply where he was better known. Nothing more was said. He left the shop. I believe that on that occasion he wrote the order while in the shop. When I refused to serve him I believe he tore up that order himself. Except from seeing him on the 11th and 16th, I had known nothing of him before.

Cross-examined—He told me where he was staying; that was on the first occasion. I cannot swear that there was a written order for the aconitine, but my belief is that while I was consulting with my fellow-assistant the order was written, and that when I returned Dr. Lamson tore it up. I was examined before the magistrate and before the coroner. I was never asked about a written order before to-day. I have not said a word about it before to-day. The prisoner had not made any other purchases to my knowledge than those I have mentioned. J. E. Stirling

Mr. Justice Hawkins—The retail price of atropia is 6d. a grain; the wholesale price is about 4d. a grain.

29. David Wavell Littlefield—I am a chemist at Ventnor, Isle of Wight. I know the prisoner. I remember his coming to my shop in the autumn of 1880; it was 13th October. I sold him ¼ lb. of arrowroot, a box of wafer papers, and twelve quinine powders, containing 1½ grains each. The white paper box produced is from my establishment. The handwriting I believe to be that of an assistant named Bright. There are now two larger powders in the box. The four papers handed to me by Dr. Dupré are, I should say, of the same size as those we sent out in the first instance. I should say the larger ones are mine; the smaller ones produced are, I should say, not mine. The powders contained 1½ grains of bi-sulphate of quinine. It was pure; no mixture with it. I did not take it out of the bottle. Mr. Bright did. I have never kept aconitine or aconitia. I have never dealt in aconitine. D. W. Littlefield

Cross-examined—I believe the larger powders came from my establishment. I believe that I can identify five of the six larger ones shown to me, but not the sixth. The smaller ones that are numbered I know nothing about.

30. George Bright—I was assistant to Mr. Littlefield at Ventnor in August, 1880. The words "Quinine Powders" on this paper are my writing; that leads me to the conclusion that I dispensed those powders. I have no doubt about it, though I cannot remember doing so. George Bright

31. David Wavell Littlefield, re-examined—I remember the order being given by the prisoner for these powders. I identify D. W. Littlefield

D. W. Littlefield

this box of wafers; there is a mark on it by which I can identify it; it is "Oct., '80."

C. A. Smith

32. Charles Albert Smith—I am a chemist at 76 High Street, Ventnor. In August last year I knew the prisoner; I had known him about eighteen months. I knew his name. He had been living at one time at Mount Vernon, in Ventnor. He was living with his father between 6th August and 23rd October, 1881. I do not know that he was there all that time; between those dates I had transactions with him. On the 8th of August I made up a prescription for him; it was an ordinary prescription from one of the Ventnor doctors. I also saw him on the 28th of August betweeen eight and nine o'clock in the evening; he was alone. He came to my shop; the door was shut. He opened it and came in. He purchased 3 grains of sulphate of atropine, 1 grain of aconitine, a bottle of eau de Cologne, and a stick of Pears's shaving soap. I served him, and entered the thing in the waste book. That fixes the date. I knew him as a medical man, and so I did not enter them in the poisons book. I labelled the packet "Aconitine—poison," and there was my own name and address on it. He did not say what he wanted the aconitine for. I charged 1s. 6d. for the aconitine. I purchased it from my brother, William Smith, a retail chemist, at Ryde. I do not know whose preparation it was. I saw the prisoner again on the 20th of October following. I did not see him on the 23rd, but I supplied things for him. On the 22nd of October he owed me £1 10s. 4d., and I sent in a bill for that amount. That sum is still owing. The account had been running from the 6th of August.

Cross-examined—I believe that before the magistrate I said that aconitia was commonly used in neuralgia and cancer, and that I believed it would be used for the purpose of relieving palpitations in heart disease, and as a diuretic in dropsy.

Sophia Jolliffe

33. Sophia Jolliffe—I am the wife of George Jolliffe, of Clarence Villa, Shanklin. In the autumn of last year my rooms were taken for Mr. and Mrs. Chapman. Shortly afterwards they came, and Percy John with them. They came on 27th August. The prisoner came with them, but did not stay at my house; he had tea, and then left. I remember Percy John

being ill. I think it was a day or two after they came. He went to bed at about 9.30. That was earlier than his usual time. He slept on the ground floor. After he was in bed I went in to see him; he complained that he felt as if he was paralysed all over. He appeared to be unwell. I did not stay with him; I went to my own room, and left my door open in case he should want anything in the night. He felt very poorly. I was not called up during the night. Next morning early, about six o'clock, he rang his bell. I went up into his room; he was in bed. He complained that he felt very poorly, and I saw that he had been very much relaxed. He went to the closet, and remained there a long time—so long that Mrs. Chapman and I went and looked through the keyhole to see if he needed assistance. He got better after he had his breakfast.

Sophia Jolliffe

Cross-examined—Before the magistrate I was asked if this occurred at the end of September, and I replied I was not sure. The deceased slept in a room on the ground floor. The closet was not on the same floor. He used to manage to get up and down stairs.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—I do not know how he got up and down the stairs; I never saw him. He had no use of his legs. I think he used to crawl on his hands and knees; I am not sure; I never saw him. I never saw him go upstairs; I saw him upstairs. I never saw how he got up. I saw him up and down, and from that I infer that he managed to get up and down. I and his sister went to the closet door and looked through. I went away after finding him there, and I think his sister did also. I saw that he was raising himself up.

Re-examined—He had left his wheel-chair at the bottom of the stairs. I had seen him wheel himself about in that chair on the ground floor; he always used to sit in it.

Mr. Williams—He could not wheel himself upstairs to the closet; the chair was left at the bottom of the stairs.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—My bedroom was at the bottom of the stairs, on the ground floor; his bedroom was also on the ground floor; the closet was on the first landing, half-way up the first flight of stairs. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman slept upstairs. It was about half-past six that I saw him in the closet; I went and rapped at Mrs. Chapman's door after seeing him in the closet. There was nobody to attend upon him but me. I have

Sophia Jolliffe a girl, but she did not attend upon him. I saw him in the closet raising himself up; he was leaning against the wall as he sat there, as if he was ill. By raising himself up I mean that he raised himself up into a sitting posture. I left him sitting when I came away, and Mrs. Chapman went back to her bedroom. I did not see him come downstairs, so I can't say how he got down.

The JURY—It was the deceased who rang the bell at six in the morning; I answered it; he rang for me to attend to his room; the bell was very near to his bed; he could reach it on his bed. When I got up I found he had been much relaxed, and I attended to his room and opened the window. I heard from my girl that he crawled about by himself, but I never saw him; I kept out of his way, for I did not think he liked to be seen, being so afflicted, but I know he used to get about. I did not lift him out of his bed; he got off the bed himself. I did not see him get off. He was in bed when I went in. I did not see him again till after he came downstairs and was dressed; he used to dress himself, I think.

G. Humby 34. GEORGE HUMBY—I am stationmaster at the Shanklin railway station. I produce the luggage and cloak office book of 1881. At that time it was kept by John Durrant. If a passenger left luggage at the station to be taken care of it would be Durrant's duty to make an entry in the book of the date and particulars.

John Durrant 35. JOHN DURRANT—I now live at Sandown, Isle of Wight. In August last year I was in the service of the Isle of Wight Railway Company, at Shanklin station. This entry in this book is my writing; I made it at the time of the transaction to which it refers. I should give a ticket to the person leaving luggage. Some luggage was left on the occasion to which this entry refers on 29th August. The person gave a name; we always ask the person their name. I entered the name in the book. I don't think I have ever seen the person since. I don't remember. It was a portmanteau, a bundle, and a package that was left.

Mr. POLAND proposed to use the entry for the purpose of the witness refreshing his memory by it.

Mr. Williams objected, there being nothing to connect the John Durrant prisoner with the transaction.

Mr. Justice Kennedy, without saying that it was strictly inadmissible, considered that, in the absence of any proof of the identity of the prisoner as the person leaving the luggage, it could have little or no effect.

The evidence was not pressed.

The Court adjourned at 4.10.

Fourth Day—Saturday, 11th March.

The Court met at 10.30.

T. Stevenson

36. Thomas Stevenson—I am a Doctor of Medicine, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Fellow of the Council and Institute of Chemistry, Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence and Chemistry at Guy's Hospital, and Examiner in Forensic Medicine at the London University. I have had large experience in analytical chemistry, and especially in toxicology. During the last ten years I have been employed by direction of the Home Office in making analyses in cases of supposed poisoning. On 8th December last I was instructed by the Home Secretary to make an analysis in the present case. I applied to him to associate some one with me in the analysis, and he appointed Dr. Dupré. Dr. Bond handed to me a number of bottles and various other things; 1st, a bottle duly secured, sealed, and labelled, "Liver, spleen, and kidneys, handed to Dr. Dupré by Mr. Bond, 7th December, A"; 2nd, a bottle labelled "B, Duodenum, parts of small intestines, cocum, colon"; 3rd, C, a bottle labelled "Contents of stomach"; the 4th, D, was a bottle secured, sealed, and labelled "Contents of stomach," and marked with an arrow; the 5th, E, was a bottle labelled "Urine"; the 6th, F, a bottle labelled "The vomit"; with this was a broken bottle unlabelled and a guttapercha wrapper with two seals with griffins' heads crests; No. 7 was a pill box, sealed, and secured with tape, marked "T. B."; No. 8 was a newspaper parcel sealed; 9th, a brown paper parcel sealed; the 10th was a paper parcel sealed. That is the whole of what I received from Mr. Bond. No. 10 was opened in the presence of Mr. Bond; it contained a box with 107 capsules in it. Another parcel contained some sugar, some sweetmeat sugar, and a box labelled "Quinine powders" in writing, and "J. W. Littlefield, chemist, Ventnor," in print; there were also four pills loose, one large comfit from

Mr. Charles Mathews.

a Dundee cake, and one of the capsules contained what appeared to be a pill, but which was really a similar comfit. No. 8 contained two packets of sweetmeats, and No. 9 contained half a Dundee cake. Parcel 11 I received from Inspector Butcher on 12th December; that was a tin box marked "I.W.B. 9, 12, 81," in which were two little tinfoil packages, each containing a pill. No. 12 was received from Butcher on 14th December. It was labelled "Remainder of sugar from Mr. Bedbrook's." No. 13 was a bottle labelled "Sherry from Mr. Bedbrook's, from decanter used by Lamson; handed to Dr. Stevenson 14, 12, 81." Butcher handed it to me on that day. I afterwards received the box and wafers marked 14 from Dr. Dupré. T. Stevenson

Now, have you examined and submitted to microscopical examination and analysis the whole of the articles handed to you by Dr. Dupré?—I have.

Were the methods of analysis arranged between yourself and Dr. Dupré before being adopted?—Yes, every step.

I believe the manual operations of analysis were in some cases carried out by yourself and in others by Dr. Dupré?—That is so.

Did you from time to time examine Dr. Dupré's operations in the places where he performed the analysis, so as to be able yourself to speak as to the result?—Yes.

We had better have the cases in which you yourself manually conducted the operation?—Yes. I examined No. 1, the liver and so on; No. 2, the intestines; No. 3, the stomach contents; No. 4, the stomach; No. 5, the urine; No. 6, the vomit; No. 9, the cake, but No. 10 only in part, *i.e.*, powder No. 16. I also examined the capsules, the loose sugar and the lump sugar, some of the pills, and the wafers partly.

In the other cases the manual work was Dr. Dupré's?—Yes.

You from time to time attending him?—Yes.

The bottle marked "A," you have told us, contained the liver, spleen, and kidneys?—It did.

To that I believe you applied a modification of Stass's process?—Yes.

What was the result?—I obtained an alkaloid extract.

Yes?—Which contained a trace of morphia, and which, when placed on the tongue, gave a sensation like that produced by

T. Stevenson

aconitia. I reserved it for further experiments. No. 2 contained a small portion of the larger bowels. I applied the same process to them, and obtained an extract which I have not tested. No. 3, the contents of the stomach, contained about 3½ ounces of fluid. That was treated in a somewhat similar way. The fluid contained a raisin and a piece of pulp of some fruit, which agreed in microscopic appearance with that of an apple. From that fluid I obtained from Stass's process an extract which, when tasted, produced a very faint sensation like that of aconitia. Though placed upon the tongue, there was a sensation of a burning of the lip, although the extract had not touched the lip. The sensation was a burning tingling, a kind of numbness difficult to define, salivation or a desire to expectorate, and a sensation of swelling at the back of the throat, followed by a peculiar seared sensation at the back of the tongue, as if a hot iron had been passed over it or some strong caustic applied. I reserved that alkaloidal extract for some physiological experiments. The bottle labelled "4 D" contained a human stomach and 7 ounces of spirituous liquid which had been added to preserve it. I observed that the stomach was reddened as if from congestion in the region of the greater curvature and posteriorly. At one part there was a little pit, as if a blister or inflammatory effusion of lymph had broken. I made an extract from the stomach and the liquid in the bottle by Stass's process, and obtained an alkaloidal extract, which I tasted and reserved. It had no particular taste that I could recognise. No. 5, bottle E, contained 6 ounces of urine with spirit. I opened it in Dr. Dupré's presence, and he pointed out a mark by which I saw that 2 ounces of spirit had been added, for the purpose of preservation, to the 4 ounces of urine. I made an extract from three-fourths of that liquid, and obtained an alkaloidal extract which contained a trace of morphia, and then, by a further process, I obtained more morphia. The first alkaloid extract to which I have referred contained more alkaloid than would be accounted for by the morphia present, which was a mere trace. Some of this extract I placed upon my tongue, and it produced the effect of aconitia, which I have already described in a marked degree, and a further effect of aconitia, a peculiar burning sensation, extending down towards

the stomach. It is very difficult to describe, and peculiar to aconitia. I have never found it with any other alkaloid. I have fifty to eighty vegetable preparations in my possession, and have tasted most of them. In this particular case the sensation lasted upon the tongue for four hours. With three-fourths of the liquid that I tested I made an experiment with the alkaloidal extract from a quantity corresponding to about 1 ounce of the urine, or one-third of the whole. I dissolved the extract and injected it beneath the skin of a mouse. The animal was obviously affected in two minutes, and from that time onwards it exhibited signs of poisoning, and died in thirty minutes from the time of administration. I made some experiments by injecting into mice a solution of Morson's aconitine, which I procured expressly from Allen & Hanbury. I dissolved it in the same solvent, and operated on mice in the same manner. Its effect upon the mice was undistinguishable from the effect produced by the extract from the urine; they died from the same character of symptoms. The solvent itself, which was a dilute solution of tartaric acid, was used on a mouse, and found to be quite inoperative. The extract which I made from the liver, spleen, kidneys, stomach, and contents I retained. They all contained an alkaloid, and two of them gave a slight taste of aconitine. I then mixed the extracts 1, 3, and 4 together, and injected it under the skin of a mouse in the same manner, and it produced effects upon the mouse in nine minutes, and from that time onwards it exhibited symptoms of poisoning, and died in twenty-two minutes. Those symptoms were precisely similar to the symptoms exhibited when I injected Morson's aconitine. No. 6, the vomit, contained 10 fluid ounces, or nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of a thick semi-fluid stuff. With that also there was spirits of wine. Dr. Dupré pointed out a mark on a bottle indicating 5 ounces of vomit, and about 5 ounces of spirit had been added. The vomit must have been solid. I examined the solid portion, and found that it consisted of pieces of fat, a very small quantity of muscular fibre of some animal, pieces of onion, a little starch, probably that of wheat, sliced candied peel, such as is put on the top of cakes, pieces of apple pulp, raisins, and some pineapple essence. There was just the odour of pineapple drops. I subsequently

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T. Stevenson examined it again minutely and microscopically to see whether I could find anything corresponding to the root of aconite or the root of horse-radish; I found neither.

That is to say, you could not find any traces under the microscope of the roots?—Yes.

Did you make an extract of the vomit?—Yes.

What did you obtain?—An alkaloidal extract, which had no trace of morphia or quinine. I applied a portion of the extract to the tongue.

What was the result?—A very powerful result, such as that I described as that of aconitia.

How long did the effect of that last?—In a severe form about six and a half hours. That is to say, the severity was passing off in that time.

Did you use a portion of that alkaloid extract for experiment on a mouse?—Yes.

What portion did you take?—The quantity corresponded with one-twenty-fourth part of the vomit.

Did you inject that into the back of a mouse?—I did.

With what result?—It was severely affected in two and a half minutes, and the symptoms continued to the time of its death, fifteen and a half minutes after the injection. Those symptoms were parallel with those of aconitia. In my judgment the vomit submitted to me contained a considerable quantity of aconitia. Approximately I think I can give an estimate of the quantity; I can put a limit each way. It was not less than one-seventh and probably not more than one-fourth of a grain. There has been only one fatal case that I know of in which aconitine has caused the death of a human being, and the quantity that proved fatal, the quantity that actually caused death, was known not to be less than one-twenty-first part of a grain, not more than one-thirteenth of a grain. The pill box, No. 7, contained two gelatine capsules, and in each was a gelatine-coated pill. I examined them, or, rather, saw what Dr. Dupré did; he operated, and I saw the results. They contained no poison. They were simple 5-grain quinine pills.

The sweetmeats, No. 8, contained no trace of poison of any character at all. No. 9, the cake, contained no trace of poison. No. 10, the capsules, were simple gelatine, free from poison.

Evidence for Prosecution.

The comfit, the sugar, and some loose pills in a box, simple quinine gelatine-coated pills, were free from poison. Of the quinine powders there were six in larger papers than others. They contained 1½ grains each on an average of disulphate of quinine, some containing 1⅓ grains, some 1⅔ grains. There were fourteen smaller papers containing powders, tied together in a bundle and numbered in ink from 7 to 20. They varied considerably in weight, the lightest weighing six-tenths of a grain; the heaviest 1⅛ grains, the average weight of the fourteen powders was very nearly 1 grain; 13½ grains in the whole. Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 20 were disulphate of quinine, or ordinary quinine powders, varying from six-tenths of a grain to 1¼ grains. My attention was called to No. 16 by Dr. Dupré. It was a little different in colour, as were also two others, 17 and 19—it was an obvious mixture; there were two substances. I mean it was obvious to a skilled person. They were of a pale fawn tint, quinine being a peculiar pure white. It was more a difference in colour than shade. No. 16 weighed just under one and eight-tenths of a grain. It was the largest. No. 17 weighed ·88 grain, nearly nine-tenths. No. 19 weighed 1·26, or 1¼ grains. The powder in No. 16 looked as if damaged quinine had been put in or quineta mixed with it. I tasted it. At first there was a bitterness of quinine, but that passed off, and in three minutes there was a very startling sensation. The taste I thought was aconitia, but I had not tasted aconitia for years. The sensation lasted severely for three hours, then gradually went away after dinner. I saw the result of Dr. Dupré's examination. There was ·83 grain of aconitia and ·96 grain of quinine. I took about one-fiftieth of a grain of No. 16 for experiment upon a mouse in the same manner. It was very ill in three and a half minutes, and dead in six and a half minutes, the symptoms being the same as in the other cases. I did not taste either No. 17 or No. 19. I cannot tell how much aconitia there was in them. I am convinced that there was aconitia in both from Dr. Dupré's experiments, but from the colour and appearance I should say the proportion of aconitia to the quinine was considerably less than in No. 16. With regard to the pills in the tin box, it is not usual to wrap pills in tinfoil in this country, nor to put them in a box of this kind.

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T. Stevenson Some pills become soft by exposure, but not quinine pills. Those two pills were examined by Dr. Dupré and myself. I myself particularly examined one. I examined both partially. One of these pills weighed 3 grains; the other, which I more particularly examined, weighed $2\frac{3}{4}$ grains nearly. I took it out of the tinfoil. There was nothing particular in the appearance. I cut it open and tasted it; it was most intense. There was at first the bitterness of quinine, and in about three minutes that passed away. I had cut out the smallest piece I could and put it on my tongue. Dr. Dupré, myself, and my assistant each thus tasted a portion, and some was taken for the microscope, and then we had taken altogether only one-twenty-second part of a grain; that sufficed for the three of us and for the microscope also. I felt the bitterness of quinine, followed by intense burning on the tongue, tingling and soreness of the tongue. The sensations were the same in character, but more severe in form than those I had already experienced.

You injected that into the back of a mouse?—Yes.

Did the mouse exhibit symptoms of poisoning?—Yes, in two minutes, and died in four and a half minutes.

How much aconitine did you come to the conclusion was in the pill?—Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ grain—·45 of a grain.

Did you find any trace of poison in the sherry?—No.

Did you find any trace of poison in the wafers?—No.

You told us that you found poison in the urine. What would that show?—It would show the poison had been absorbed into the blood and become excreted.

You say you found traces of morphia; have you heard of the injection of morphia in the last hours of the boy's illness?—I have.

Were the traces of morphia which you found such as you would expect to find from the injection of morphia?—Yes, you would expect to find it in the urine and probably in the liver too.

Could a fatal dose of aconitine be administered in a capsule, such as one of these?—Yes, many times a fatal dose. I have put a grain of aconitine into one of the capsules.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Before you leave this part of the case I should like to know how long the symptoms lasted after tasting?—Seven and a half hours.

And that after taking a meal?—Yes.

The effects, then, did not pass away for seven and a half hours?—That is so, my lord.

Examination resumed—Now, aconitine, being taken in a capsule like this, would it prevent the taste being felt on the tongue when swallowing?—Oh, yes. There is no specific or characteristic chemical test for aconitine. The tests are first the general chemical tests for an alkaloid, and I did discover an alkaloid; and then the physiological test; first the effect upon the tongue and neighbouring parts, and the general effect on the system if taken in any quantity. The other physiological test is that it will kill after a definite course of symptoms.

I believe that in the vomit, and the portions of the body to which you have alluded, you did find aconitine?—Yes.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—There is not the least doubt?—Not the least.

Examination resumed—You heard the medical men describe the symptoms of the boy and the post-mortem appearances?—I did.

In your judgment are they or are they not such as would be likely to arise in aconitine poisoning?—They are; they all point to an active alkaloidal principle, and more nearly to aconitine than anything else.

Judging from the symptoms of the post-mortem analysis, what conclusion do you arrive at as to the cause of death?—That death arose from aconitine poisoning.

Is aconitine a medicine generally used in this country for internal purposes?—No.

Have you known of its use by any name?—No. I have never known it prescribed or given as an internal dose in this country. It was formerly tried about thirty years ago, but was given up because it was found to be so dangerous.

Cross-examined by Mr. Montagu Williams—Have you been present at any case of acknowledged aconitine poisoning?—No; there has never been one, so far as I am aware, in this country.

Nor at a post-mortem examination?—There has only been one abroad.

You found your opinion, then, upon the taste test, your experiments upon the mice, and your knowledge from reading

T. Stevenson of aconitine poisoning?—Yes, from my knowledge of aconitine poisons, that is, substances from which aconitine is extracted, and from reading.

Do you know that it is used in France?—Yes.

And Germany?—Yes.

Do you know that it is actually sold as a patent medicine only at a French chemist's—M. Jozeau's, in the Haymarket?—No; but I know that it is used in some French preparations.

Are you aware that it is considerably used in France?—It has been considerably used within the last two or three years.

Do you know Guilbert's French book on chemistry?—I know the book. I think I have it in my possession.

Is this the book?—Yes.

Do you there find a formula for pills with aconitine in them?—Yes.

And drops?—Yes.

For internal use?—No; the drops are for dropping into the ear—for external use.

Quite so; but the pills, I suppose, are for internal use?—No doubt.

And for liniment?—Yes.

And in the British Pharmacopœia you find the "unguentum aconitia"—8 grains of aconitia to 1 grain of lard?—Yes.

Is Sidney Ringer an acknowledged authority on therapeutics?—Yes.

Do you know his book?—Yes.

Do you agree with this, that "aconite is used externally in the form of liniment or ointment to relieve pain"?—Yes.

The "unguentum aconitia" mentioned in the British Pharmacopœia alludes to aconitia, does it not?—Yes, the ointment does.

Is that applied in neuralgia cases?—Yes, it is used for neuralgia.

And rheumatism?—Yes.

Do you agree with this, that "a piece of ointment the size of a bean or nut should be applied with friction, which enhances its efficacy"?—Yes, that is so, to skin; I mean to say by that that the friction enhances its efficacy.

A piece the size of a bean would contain ½ grain of aconitine, would it not?—That would depend upon the size of the bean.

That is true?—A piece the size of a horse bean would contain barely ½ grain. T. Stevenson

The application in such cases will cut short pain?—Yes.

And prevent sickness?—I do not know about that. Sickness is not a usual symptom of neuralgia or rheumatism.

And do you agree with this, that "aconitine diminishes sensibility and has been used internally in various painful diseases"?—Yes.

Have you heard of its use in cases of typhoid fever?—Aconite or aconitine?

Aconitine?—I have heard of its use in fevers generally.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Not specially in typhoid cases?—No, in fevers generally, but not specially in typhoid cases.

Mr. Williams—Do you agree——

Mr. Justice Hawkins—May I ask from what you are reading?

Mr. Williams—The *Journal of Medicine*, No. 27, March, 1882.

The Solicitor-General objected, pointing out that the article had been written since the proceedings were instituted.

Mr. Williams—But not with a view to this case. The journal is edited by Dr. Phipson, who is an acknowledged authority.

The Solicitor-General—It is something written in a medical journal within the last day or two.

The Witness—Dr. Phipson is not a doctor of medicine.

Mr. Williams—Then I will put the question generally. Have you heard of its use internally in seven cases of fever?

Mr. Justice Hawkins—He says, "I have heard of its use in cases of fever, but not in cases of typhoid fever."

The Witness—I have never heard of its being used in typhoid cases proper.

Cross-examination resumed—Have you ever heard of its use in cases of pleuro-pneumonia?—Yes, in very minute doses. I have read that in a journal not edited by a medical man.

But sink the journal, and suppose the question is from me. You have heard of its use in cases of pleuro-pneumonia?—Yes; I have read of it in an anonymous article in a journal edited by a man who is not a medical man.

I am sure you do not wish to throw a doubt upon your collaborateur, Dr. Dupré. He is not a medical man?—He is not.

With regard to the symptoms—the dilated pupils—are they

T. Stevenson not invariably dilated three days after death?—Yes, after poisoning.

I am not speaking of poisoning, but of natural death?—Yes, they are.

Then that is not a distinctive sign of aconitine poisoning?—No.

The tongue is frequently found to be furred, is it not?—Yes.

Then that is not a distinctive sign of aconitine poisoning?—I do not think it has been stated that the tongue of the deceased was particularly furred.

As to the slight congestion of the brain, is that peculiar to aconitine poisoning?—It has been observed in aconitine—or, rather, aconite—poisoning, but it is not peculiar to that form of poisoning.

Blood-stained ventricles—are they a distinct feature of aconitine poisoning?—They are met with in aconitine poisoning, but are not characteristic of it.

In aconitine poisoning do you expect to find empty ventricles and auricles?—In the only recorded case of aconitine poisoning this was not observed.

There have been cases of poisoning by aconite?—The *Philadelphia Journal of Medicine*, edited by Dr. Reichert, has given instances.

I hope he is a duly qualified medical man?—He is a great authority.

Congested liver, is that a peculiarity of aconitine poisoning?—No.

The congestion of the viscera, is that a distinct sign?—It is an important sign.

But it might proceed from various causes?—No doubt.

There was great irritation of the stomach; is that a definite sign of aconitine poisoning?—No, but it is a characteristic.

Inflammation of the spleen?—It is not a distinct feature, but consistent, and by consistent I mean that it was actually observed in the known case of aconitine poisoning.

Do you know of any case in which aconitine had produced corrosion of the stomach?—No; I do not know that this had produced corrosion of the stomach. I observed no signs of corrosion upon the stomach.

Great signs of irritation of the stomach?—Yes; those are

signs of aconite and aconitia poisoning. It is reported so in the only case of known aconitine poisoning. T. Stevenson

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Would aconitine have the effect of producing great irritation of the stomach?—Most certainly.

Cross-examination resumed—I suppose you are prepared to admit that there are causes of death which have not been and cannot be ascertained by medical science, not even by a post-mortem examination?—Yes; I have known many cases of death and no cause has been discovered.

Then, with regard to the patches in the stomach, do you agree with Dr. Bond that they might have existed days before death?—Not without symptoms.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—But, first of all, do you agree with Dr. Bond?—I do not believe that the patches could have been there if the deceased had been, as described, in perfect health.

Do you agree that they might have existed days before death?—*Per se* they might, but not with his known state of health.

Cross-examination resumed—I suppose you are going to say that they could not have existed without causing pain to the patient?—Quite so.

Will you give me the precise day when you analysed the contents of the stomach—when you began it?—I received it on 9th December, and Dr. Dupré and myself began on the 10th. Dr. Dupré had, however, already commenced an operation which might be described as a portion of the analysis.

Then when did you commence your analysis of the vomit?—The same day.

And of the urine?—The same day.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—How much aconitine would there be in the ointment referred to?—About $\frac{1}{2}$ grain in $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm.

Cross-examination resumed—Did you expect to find the alkaloid in the stomach after the injection of the morphia?—No.

In the urine?—Yes; but I should say that the morphia present was so small in quantity that it would not account for the whole of the alkaloid. The morphia would produce but a mere trace.

But you would expect to find some?—Yes; it might just be recognised in the most delicate test. We recognise the ten-

T. Stevenson thousandth of a grain, certainly not the one-thousandth of a grain.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—It was so small that you could scarcely see it?—Quite so.

You expected to find some?—Yes, and by further extract we got a little more.

Then kindly tell me the precise process by which you extracted the alkaloidal substances?—I took half the contents of the stomach, and mixed it with such a quantity of rectified spirit as would, with the spirit previously added by Dr. Dupré, make the proportion of spirit to the liquid taken two volumes of spirit to one volume of liquid. The liquid which I took was acid in its reaction. The mixture was allowed to stand till the next day, or, rather, two days; it stood over Sunday, from Saturday till Monday; it was then filtered; the insoluble part was well and repeatedly washed with rectified spirit; the clear liquid was then evaporated at a temperature below that of the human body till it was almost solid; the portion which had not dissolved in spirit was then treated with an additional quantity of spirit, to which a little tartaric acid was added; the mixture was then warmed till it had the temperature of 140 degs. Fahr., and it was then cooled and filtered. The insoluble part was well and repeatedly washed with spirit, and the clear liquid thus obtained was evaporated at a temperature below that of the human body till a fairly solid residue was obtained. I now obtained two alcoholic extracts, each of which was treated in a precisely similar manner, but separately, by digesting them with warm absolute alcohol—or, rather, tepid—till the alcohol would take up and dissolve nothing more. The solutions in absolute alcohol were filtered and evaporated nearly to dryness. They were then treated with a little water. They were found to be acid in reaction, and the two solutions, that is to say, that from the plain spirit and the other from the tartaric acid spirit, were mixed. Care was taken that they remained just faintly acid, and the solution was then agitated with washed ether. The ether was allowed to separate. It was drawn off and replaced by fresh ether. The operation with the ether was carried out five times. The ether was set apart and allowed to evaporate at a temperature below its boiling point. That was reserved as not containing any alkaloid.

I want you to tell me the nature of the residue?—It was an oily-looking residue, partly invisible in water. T. Stevenson

In colour?—Brownish.

Thick?—Yes.

Quantity?—It was not weighed, but it was a very appreciable quantity.

The tests were for aconite and aconitine poison only?—Oh, no.

Did you test for mineral poisons?—Not by this test.

Have you given us the whole of the process?—Oh, no. The aqueous liquid which separated from the ether was made alkaline by means of carbonate of soda; it was then agitated with a mixture of washed ether and washed chloroform. The ether-chloroform solution was then allowed to separate; it was drawn off and again replaced by ether, which was again drawn off. The ether and chloroform mixtures were evaporated, and finally dried *in vacuo* over oil of vitriol in the air pump; that was simply to dry it thoroughly without decomposing. Before it was placed in the vacuum I examined it to see whether there was any volatile alkaloid, which could be recognised by its particular odour; there was none, nor any volatile oil. I then dried it over oil of vitriol. It weighed ·108, or rather more than one-tenth of a grain. It was of slightly crystalline appearance. I tasted it by putting a little fragment on my tongue.

That is your taste testing?—This was the alkaloid extract I tasted.

Then, having obtained this extract, you reduced it subsequently to a solvent, and injected it into the body of a mouse?—Yes.

And you went through the same process with the vomit?—Yes, with the exception that the vomit was twice tested.

And the urine?—Yes, but there might have been slight differences here and there.

You say that this was aconitine?—Yes.

Was it not characteristic of anything else?—No, nothing else that I know of.

Do you not expect to find something of the same kind of effect with veratria?—No, I have tried that on the tongue, and there is a difference.

A marked difference?—Yes.

T. Stevenson What do you say as to delphinia?—It is more like atropia than aconitine. There is more the bitterness I tasted some years ago.

Is it more bitter than aconitine?—Morson's aconitine, which is most pure, has little or no bitterness, whereas most alkaloids have a bitterness.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—What is the real difference?—There is more of astringency about aconitine—that is, its immediate effect, and in this it is quite distinct from the effects produced by delphinia.

Cross-examination resumed—Do you say it differs from pepperine?—Yes. We all know the effects produced by pepper.

That has a bitterness?—Yes; but you get the burning sensation at once.

Do I understand there is no special oil for aconitine?—Yes.

Is not phosphoric acid a test?—No.

But it is given as a test?—Yes, but not by those who have studied aconitine recently.

It has been looked upon as a test?—Yes, no doubt; but I have made special experiments in connection with this case with pure aconitine, and find it is not a reliable test. I could get no results from it.

Do you know this book?—Yes, it is by Flückner.

He gives the reaction?—Quite so; but it is German aconitia to which he refers, and that is very different to English.

Does he not refer to the English aconitia as well as to the German?—I do not see reference to English aconitia. Perhaps you will point it out to me if he does. If he does say so, I should disagree with him.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—What is the date of the work?—1879.

Cross-examination resumed—What were the mice you operated upon?—Principally tame mice.

They are more easily operated upon?—Yes. They do not show signs of fear when handled.

Do you agree with this—"Experiments on animals may furnish us with much useful information in cases of suspected poisoning, but their value must not be over-estimated"?—Of course they must not be over-estimated.

Then do you agree with this? It is an article in the *Fortnightly Review*, by Lord Coleridge——

Mr. Justice Hawkins—No doubt you would be at liberty to quote Lord Coleridge upon a question of law, but you cannot quote a magazine article by Lord Coleridge.

(Mr. Montagu Williams was about to quote from the article, when the judge interposed.)

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Surely you must not state to the jury what are Lord Coleridge's opinions. You must ask the witness generally as to whether such and such is not the case.

The Solicitor-General—Why do you not call Lord Coleridge?

Mr. Williams (*to witness*)—Do you agree with this?——

Mr. Justice Hawkins—You may ask the witness whether this represents his opinions, but you must not state it as representing Lord Coleridge's opinions.

Mr. Mathews—It is obvious; it has been admitted over and over again.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Pardon me. It is not Lord Coleridge's opinion that is obvious, and it has not been admitted over and over again.

(Mr. Mathews was making some explanation when the judge interposed.)

Mr. Justice Hawkins—We cannot accept the opinion of Lord Coleridge as a medical opinion, particularly as he was not to be called.

The Solicitor-General—Why do you not call Lord Coleridge as a witness, and ask him if the article represents his medical experience?

Mr. Williams—He has already been called in one case. (*To witness*) Now, the solution which was injected into the mouse, was it measured?—Yes.

Upon each occasion?—Yes.

How was it injected?—The quantity injected was three or four minims. The needle at the end of the hypodermic syringe was passed into the animal's back. In the case of the urine three or four minims represented 1 ounce, and in the case of the vomit the twenty-fourth part; in the other cases the whole of the residue was taken. The mice were Albinos, piebalds, and cinnamon coloured. They do not show signs of fear; you can handle them. Experiments on animals must not be over-estimated. Whether it is a recognised fact that alkaloids are to be found in the human body, more especially in the

T. Stevenson stomach, after death, independently of poisons, is a question still *sub judice* among experts; it has been asserted that such is the case where the stomach or any other viscera has been much decomposed. I cannot say that it is not a fact; it is still *sub judice*. I refer to what are called "cadaveric alkaloids," utterly irrespective of the administration of poisons. It is so asserted. Stass's test is for cadaveric as well as natural alkaloids. Cadaveric alkaloids have been described as producing the same effects as vegetable alkaloids. They have been described as producing the same effects, but I have seen none producing the same effects as aconitia. There is a test which distinguishes them from all natural alkaloids except morphia and veratria, and certainly from aconitine. That test was applied to those cases where no morphia was present. The test is the reduction from cyanide of potassium to the ferro-cyanide. Brouder and Boutmy are the authorities for that test; they have described the method of obtaining and distinguishing these cadaveric alkaloids. I was one of the first to point out, seventeen years ago, that alkaloidal extracts found in persons after death were poisonous to frogs if injected under the skin, but I did not go far enough. I have read books on cadaveric alkaloids. I put some into an English dress myself. I do not read Italian. I do not remember if I have read Peschi. I cannot say whether cadaveric alkaloids are described as producing a pricking on the tongue. I have made many experiments, and never found the residue of the stomach prove poisonous to the lower animals. I have never known alkaloidal extracts prepared in this way to be poisonous; I cannot say that it is not so, but I never met with it. After the administration of aconitine the symptoms usually set in soon, but severe symptoms have been delayed from a few minutes to an hour and a half.

Does the action depend upon the dose? Would you expect a large dose to take effect sooner?—The probability is that a large dose would take severe effect sooner, but not necessarily. The smallest dose may produce effects very speedily.

What do I understand you to state is the smallest dose that will occasion death—that is, in your opinion?—I am not speaking of opinions, but facts. Between one-thirteenth and one-fifteenth or one-sixteenth of a grain.

Re-examined—The experiments have been directed to putrefied corpses. When corpses are putrefying cadaveric poisons are produced. I procured alkaloidal extracts from the urine, viscera, and stomach, and ascertained the effects of them upon mice. I have examined a great number of liquids made from dead bodies, and operated upon mice. I have made twenty-two experiments this year. There were two cases of the contents of a stomach after death, and cases of heart disease, and four cases of the liver, kidneys, spleen, vomit, and six from urine. I have also in six instances taken extracts from the urine of living persons, and three from the urine of healthy dead persons. Those extracts had no effect upon my tongue. I have had many years' experience, and I have certainly never tasted anything like aconitine. I took in one case the urine of a patient who had been having morphia injected, and found morphia, but the extract had no particular taste. I detected the morphia chemically. I injected twenty-two different liquids into twenty-two mice, but some of them lived, and were used over again. I found them suffer from nothing but a trifling irritation due to the puncture. One died, but that was accounted for by the puncture having entered the spinal column. The two-thousandth part of a grain of aconitine was invariably speedily fatal to a mouse; the smallest quantity was one three-thousandth part of a grain, a hardly visible quantity. T. Stevenson

Mr. Justice Hawkins—The time when the severe symptoms appeared would depend upon whether the poison came into direct contact with the tongue or whether it was in a capsule. It must be brought into solution in some way before it would produce severe symptoms. Anything which would protect it would delay the symptoms.

37. Auguste Dupre, recalled—I am a Doctor of Philosophy and a Fellow of the Royal Society and Lecturer on Chemistry and Toxicology at Westminster Hospital, and Chemical Referee to the Local Government Board. I have been largely engaged on analyses for the Home Department. On 7th December, 1881, I received from Mr. Bond and Inspector Butcher the articles marked 1 to 10 inclusive. I opened the bottle marked A, containing the liver and kidneys, and added about a half-pint of rectified spirits of wine, and to No. 3, containing the A. Dupre

A. Dupre

contents of the stomach, I added about 2 ounces of spirit; I just doubled the fluid. To No. 4, the stomach, I added 5 ounces of spirit; to No. 5, the urine, I added 2 ounces of spirit; No. 6, the bottle containing the vomit, was quite full; the neck broke in opening it, and I transferred the contents to a clean bottle and added 5 ounces of spirit. On 8th December I handed all those articles to Mr. Bond. On 10th December I went with Dr. Stevenson to Guy's Hospital, where we arranged a plan on which the analysis should be made. He was to carry on the manual part on certain articles, and I on the residue. I took the six pills found among the capsules, this small pill box, one parcel of sugar, a small pasteboard box containing powders, and two parcels of sweetmeats. I also on the Monday took away a tin box containing the pills. On the 16th I took from Guy's Hospital the other parts of the sugar. I analysed all those articles. I have heard the evidence and agree with it. I tasted every extract except what Dr. Stevenson tasted, the extract from the stomach and the liver and stomach separately, and I tasted them after they had been mixed. I tasted the extract from the urine, and it gave a very strong sensation of aconitine; its effect continued for hours. I tasted the alkaloid obtained from the vomit, and it gave the same sensation painfully marked. The effect lasted for over six hours, although I took lunch and dinner during that time. I found in the vomit no trace of quinine; if aconitine had been taken in conjunction with quinine, I should have expected to find quinine in the vomit. I tasted powder No. 16, and have heard the proportion of aconite found in it by Dr. Stevenson; it is quite correct. No. 17 powder contained only a very minute portion of aconitine, nothing like as much as in No. 16. I cannot give the amount of aconitine in No. 19. I tasted it. There was aconitine in it, a trifle more than in No. 17, but nothing like so much as in No. 16. I agree with Dr. Stevenson about the analysation of the articles in which no poison was found.

Cross-examined—I am not a medical man—I give my attention chiefly to chemical analyses. I quite agree with Dr. Stevenson as to the test of taste and the experiments on animals. I do not know that an application was made to the Home Office for an expert to be present at the analysis on behalf of the prisoner and refused of my own knowledge.

38. Samuel Philip Eastwick—I am a chemical lecturer. I commenced lecturing at Mr. Bedbrook's school on chemistry and physics at Easter, 1881, and continued till the summer holidays in July. I went on alternate Tuesday afternoons. I brought the apparatus from my laboratory in Trinity Square, City. Some glass tubes and acids which were being required every week were left at Mr. Bedbrook's and kept in a cupboard, which was fastened by a button near the top. The tubes and utensils were put away each day by me. When I required it a boy used to assist me, but not always. I always found them as I left them. They were sulphuric acid, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, some ammonia, lime water, and a few salts; there were no poisons among them. S. P. Eastwick

39. Lawrence John Whalley—I am an analytical chemist and lecturer, of Lewisham High Road. During Michaelmas term, 1881, I attended at Blenheim House School in place of Mr. Eastwick from the end of September to 14th December. I lectured on organic chemistry and physics. I used to lecture, and the boys wrote out the answers, and whatever chemical demonstrations were necessary I conducted them. I left some chemicals in the cupboard. I used to put them away and take them out myself. The cupboard was fastened by a button. I occasionally left poisons there, acetate of lead and sulphuric and hydrochloric acids; they are poisons. L. J. Whalley

40. John Humphrey Howard Richardson, M.R.C.S.—I live in York Road, Wandsworth. In the winter months of 1879 and 1880 I was assistant to Dr. Berry, and sometimes assisted at the school. I knew the deceased, and I once attended him professionally on 26th March last year. It was for an eruption on the face. I prescribed for him a half-drachm of Fowler's solution of arsenic, 1 drachm of solution of potash, and a saline mixture sufficient to mix 6 ounces, from a private prescription. That was the only medicine I prescribed. The eruption was of a trifling character, probably arising from constitutional causes. J. H. H. Richardson

41. David Ormond—I live at Enmore Park, South Norwood, and am a trustee under the will of the late Mrs. John, the mother of the deceased. She was the widow of Mr. William David Ormond

David Ormond John, a Manchester merchant. She died in 1869. There were five children, two girls and three boys. The eldest, Miss Kate John, was married to the prisoner on 16th October, 1878. One of the sons, Sydney, died on 12th April, 1873, and Hubert, one of the other sons, on 24th June, 1879, under age. His share of the property was divided between the sisters, Mrs. Lamson, Mrs. Chapman, and the deceased. At the time of the deceased's death he was possessed of, in India Four per Cents., £1991 5s. 11d., and £1078 18s. 7d. in Consols, producing about £109 per annum; the value together would be something over £3000. Whatever he died possessed of, he being under age, would go to his two sisters in equal moieties.

Cross-examined—The children were wards in Chancery. The share which Mrs. Lamson became entitled to by the death of her brother Hubert was paid over to her as quickly as possible through the solicitor. It was in November.

W. G. Chapman

42. William Greenhill Chapman—I live at Willesden, and am a clerk in the Civil Service. I married Miss Margaret John, the second sister of the deceased, in 1877. In 1878 the prisoner was married to Miss Kate John. At the end of 1879 or the beginning of 1880 he went to practise at Bournemouth. I remember his finally leaving England in April last and going to America. He was away about six weeks. In August, 1881, I went to Shanklin on a Saturday, and I think it was the 27th. My wife and the deceased went with me; the prisoner was staying with his mother at that time at Ventnor, which is 4 or 5 miles from Shanklin. The prisoner and his wife met us at Shanklin station when we arrived. I knew he intended returning to America very shortly. He remained at Shanklin two or three hours; he said he should call on Monday to see the deceased and say good-bye to him before going to America. On Monday I did not see the prisoner; he did not say at what time he should call, and I was out when he called. When I came in the deceased complained of being unwell and feeling sick. I did not see him actually vomiting. He went to bed about an hour and a half after dinner, about nine o'clock. I came in about half-past three or four o'clock, and he said he felt sick then. I did not see him again that night after he went to bed.

Cross-examined—I said before the magistrate, "I do not call it illness, but indisposition." From three or four till nine o'clock he was with me all the time. After he went to bed I did not see him till next morning at breakfast; my wife was with me up to breakfast time. He went from his bedroom up to the landing. He could go upstairs quicker than you or I could; he travelled upstairs with his hands; there was no difficulty in his crawling about to get from place to place. He could get upstairs without difficulty. W. G. Chapman

Re-examined—He propelled himself with his hands from step to step backwards, seating himself from step to step. He had visited me on other occasions, but no medical man ever prescribed for him while he was staying with me.

Mr. Williams—I saw him last before his death on 10th September, when we left him at Mr. Bedbrook's on our return from Shanklin. This paper (produced) is the prisoner's writing, to the best of my belief.

The Court adjourned at 4.15.

Fifth Day—Monday, 13th March.

The Court met at 10.30.

W. Stevenson

43. William Stevenson—I live at Heywood, Bournemouth. I am the editor of the *Bournemouth Observer*. I made the acquaintance of the prisoner in October, 1879, when he resided at Beaumont Terrace, Bournemouth. He afterwards removed to another residence called Hursley, which was a house standing in its own grounds. About the end of 1880 the prisoner had communicated to me that he was in difficulties with regard to money, and in April, 1881, he informed me that there was one execution in his house. I subsequently found there were two. I afterwards introduced to the prisoner a Mr. M'Ewen Brown as a suitable person to make an arrangement with his creditors. His furniture was sold by private auction; Mr. M'Ewen Brown bought it and paid out the executions, and had an absolute assignment of the furniture to himself. In the month of April, 1881, the prisoner left Bournemouth for America. At that time he owed me over £100. That money is still owing. On the 26th of October, 1881, I received this letter from the prisoner. (This, dated 25th, stated that it was his intention to raise a sum of money in London for the purpose of satisfying his creditors at Bournemouth.) I saw the prisoner on the following evening, the 27th October, when he asked me for a case of surgical instruments which he had left with me, a travelling rug, and £5. I let him have them, and he left Bournemouth at mid-day on 28th, and I have not seen him since until now. I have seen a case of instruments in the possession of Mr. Robinson, a pawnbroker. That was the case which I had given to the prisoner.

E. W. Rebbeck

44. Edward Wyse Rebbeck—I am an estate agent at Bournemouth, and am agent for the owner of Hursley, which was occupied by the prisoner. He paid the rent to Christmas, 1880,

but the rent to Lady Day, £35, was not paid. A distress was made, the furniture and effects were seized, and I paid the landlord his rent. The balance, £40 17s., was passed over to the Sheriff towards other executions. I believe there were three writs in the hands of the Sheriff. The distress was levied at the latter part of March, I believe. E. W. Rebbeck

45. Meyrick Heath—I am cashier at the Bournemouth branch of the Wilts and Dorset Banking Company. I knew the prisoner in the way of business. He opened an account at our bank on 9th November, 1880. It was closed in January, 1881. I wrote him the following letter on 20th January, 1881:— M. Heath

Dear Sir,—I much regret that the bank will not allow me to honour any further cheque of yours until you provide for them. I must therefore request you not to draw more cheques before your remittances arrive.—Yours faithfully, M. Heath, *pro* Manager.

46. William Ransome Corder—I am a surgeon. I was a surgeon on board the steamship "City of Berlin," which sailed from Liverpool on 7th April last, and arrived at New York on the 17th. The prisoner, who was a passenger on board, introduced himself, and said that he had sold his practice in Bournemouth in consequence of ill-health. On 2nd July following I again saw the prisoner on board the same steamer, which was then homeward bound. The prisoner said he was in want of money, and if I lent him £5 he would repay it on his arrival in London. I lent him the money. I afterwards met him in London. I did not ask him for it. The money had not been paid. W. R. Corder

47. Robert Iliff—I am baggage master to the Inman Steamship Company, Liverpool. I remember the steamship "City of Brussels" leaving Liverpool on 30th August last year. The prisoner left on board for New York. Robert Iliff

48. Thomas Newcomb—I am a purser in the service of the Inman Steamship Company. On 6th October last I sailed from New York in the steamship "City of Montreal." We arrived at Liverpool on 16th or 17th October. The prisoner was a passenger on board. T. Newcomb

J. Croome

49. James Croome—I am one of the firm of Croome & Son, upholsterers, of Bournemouth. In January, 1881, the prisoner owed us £63 4s. 3d. for goods supplied from November, 1879. I issued a writ and put in an execution in March, but was too late; the goods were all removed. I received £14 6s. 7d. from the Sheriff, and the balance is still unpaid.

T. Cullan

50. Thomas Cullan—I am a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and carry on business in Vigo Street. In November, 1880, the prisoner applied to me, and I lent him £200 between 23rd November, 1880, and 1st March, 1881. I received this letter from him in New York—

New York, 27th May.

My dear Brother Cullan,—I am only just off a sick bed, which has very nearly ended my earthly career, and I feel I must send you a few lines just to tell you of the cause of my long silence. My obligation to you hangs constantly over my head, and by the next European mail (early next week) I trust to be able to send a more satisfactory letter. In the greatest haste, gratefully and sincerely yours, and with best fraternal greetings, Geo. H. Lamson.

To Thos. Cullan, Esq.

I never saw nor heard from him after that.

T. A. Robinson

51. Thomas Alfred Robinson—I am a pawnbroker, of 26 Mortimer Street, Regent Street. This contract note of 24th November, 1881, refers to the pawning by Dr. G. H. Lamson, of Nelson's Hotel, of a case of surgical instruments and a gold hunting watch for £5. The instruments are those shown to Mr. Stevenson this morning. The prisoner pawned them himself, and signed this counterfoil.

J. H. Ashbridge

52. John Henry Ashbridge—I am stationmaster at Ryde, Isle of Wight. On 30th November, about 2 p.m., I saw the prisoner at Ryde pierhead on his arrival from Portsmouth. He came to me with one of the ticket-takers, and said that he wished to get to Ventnor and had no money, and would I enable him to get on. He said that he was well known, and I let him go in charge of a guard. He said that he should return by the 3.10 train from Ventnor. That would only give him three or four minutes there. The fare was 2s. 10d. I did not see him afterwards, but I ascertained that the money was paid.

Evidence for Prosecution.

53. Price Owen—I am a wine merchant, of High Street, Ventnor. I know the prisoner. On 30th November I had been out; my clerk sent for me, and I found the prisoner there. My clerk said in his presence that he had cashed a cheque for £10 for the prisoner. The prisoner said that he had called to ask me to cash a cheque for £20, but that he was in such a hurry to catch the train he had not waited for me to return. There was a cab at the door, and he went away. He returned in ten or fifteen minutes and said that he had lost the train, and would I now cash him a cheque for £20. I did so, and he handed me this cheque (dated 30th November, 1881, on the Wilts and Dorset Bank. Pay Price Owen or order, £20). I tore up the £10 cheque and burnt it in his presence. That was on the same bank, out of the same book. After a little conversation he left. On 1st December I received this telegram:— **Price Owen**

From Dr. Lamson, Horsham Railway Station, to Price Owen.—Just discovered the cheque you cashed yesterday made on wrong bank; please don't send it on. Letter follows next post.

In the course of post I received this letter from the prisoner—

Nelson's Hotel, Great Portland Street,
London, December 1, 1881.

Dear Sir,—I sent you a telegram just before leaving my friends at Horsham, telling you I had written my cheque on the wrong bank, which was the case. I formerly had an account at the Wilts and Dorset Bank, but have since transferred my business to another house. The cheques are precisely the same colour, and as I left home in a great hurry I snatched up from my drawer what I thought was the right book, but I was mistaken. I had in my hurry taken my old Wilts and Dorset cheque-book, which contained a few blank cheques. I have not the right book with me, but have wired home for it to be sent me by return to Ventnor, where I return to-morrow or next day; I shall then immediately set the matter right with you. Begging you will excuse such an inexcusable piece of stupidity on my part, in great haste, yours faithfully, Geo. H. Lamson, M.D.

The cheque was returned dishonoured, and I have never received my £20.

54. John Law Tulloch—I am a student of medicine, and live at Alma Square, St. John's Wood. I have known the prisoner for some time. I saw him last December, and had not seen him since the previous April. I saw him on 1st **J. L. Tulloch**

J L. Tulloch December last, on Thursday night, at my house. I think he said he was going to Paris on the following morning. He said he was staying at Nelson's Hotel. The next day he called upon me at 1.30 and had dinner; he then said he was going to Paris in the evening. I went with him to Nelson's Hotel, and assisted him in packing his luggage. I went with him from the hotel to Waterloo Station; we took a large leather portmanteau and handbag, and, I think, a rug; we went to the cloak-room. He said, whilst packing, that he would run down to Wimbledon to see if he could see his brother-in-law, and if he could catch the train afterwards he would go on to Paris. At the cloak-room he deposited the portmanteau and rug, and took the handbag with him. We went together to Wimbledon; it was, I think, about six o'clock. When we got to Wimbledon he told me he was going opposite to the school, Mr. Bedbrook's. I waited for him at a public-house. He came back in about twenty minutes, and said he had seen his brother-in-law, who was very much worse, and he did not think he would live long, and that Mr. Bedbrook, who was a director of one of the Continental lines to Paris, told him it was as well that he did not go that night, as there was a bad boat on the service. We returned to town together, and went to the Comedy Theatre, Panton Street; after that we went to Stone's public-house, opposite the theatre, where he wrote a cheque for £12 10s. in my favour, handed it to me, and asked me to get it cashed for him. We went first to the Adelphi Hotel in Adam Street, but we could not get it cashed there. We then drove to the Eyre Arms, St. John's Wood, near to which I reside. Mr. Perrot, the landlord, cashed the cheque for me, and I handed the money to the prisoner, and parted from him for the night, and arranged to meet him at the Adelphi Hotel next day. I saw him there about three or four o'clock on Saturday, 3rd December. He said he was too late for the Paris train; he should go to the Horse Shoe. I went down to see him off that afternoon, but he was too late, and said he should go in the evening. We went to the Horse Shoe to have some refreshment. When there we found that one of the bags, which was supposed to contain £5 of silver, contained only copper. We returned to the Eyre Arms and got the copper

changed for a £5 note. He left me there at about six o'clock. I did not see or hear from him again until after he was in custody. The cheque went forward for presentation and was dishonoured. It is marked, "No account." Since he has been in custody I received this letter from him— J. L. Tulloch

Clerkenwell, December 13, 1881.

I have only to-day learned that the cheque you had cashed for me had been returned. I discovered when too late that I had given it on the wrong bank in Bournemouth by mistake, but sent word there to advise them what had been done, but the events of the past few days stopped everything. I have, however, given the necessary instructions, and the amount will be in your hands very soon. I confess I am very much surprised at the whole affair, and more than anything at your attitude towards, or I should better say, against me, which I am pained and hurt at after your words of a few days ago. For obvious reasons any further explanations must be deferred to a future period.—I am, yours, &c., G. H. Lamson.

J. L. Tulloch, Esq.

I have not received the money.

Cross-examined—I have said to-day, "The prisoner said on 2nd December the boy is very much worse, and I do not think he will last long," that is correct. I cannot remember whether I said before the magistrate that the prisoner said, "I have been to the school and seen the boy, and he is not very well." I may have said "The curvature of the spine is getting worse, and the boy generally is not in a good state of health." I do not think he said anything to me about the boy having been passing through his examination that day. I was perfectly sober that night. My brother is here. The endorsement on the cheque is mine; it was signed that night. I had been on friendly terms with the prisoner. He had lent me money as often as I had lent him. I do not still owe him money. He did not lend me £20 actually. He gave me a cheque for £20, which covered a debt of his to me. In August, 1879, I think I owed him £20. This letter is in my writing. (The letter was dated 23rd August, 1879; in it the witness referred to a loan of £20, which he had received from the prisoner, and which he hoped soon to discharge, and requested to lend him another £20, and "so add one to the list of favours and kindnesses already very long," which he

J. L. Tulloch had experienced from him.) He had been very kind to me. I do not mean in the way of money, but whenever he came to town he used to send for me, and take me out to dinner and to the theatre, and he would pay for all.

Re-examined—I never got the second £20. I have repaid the £20.

W. Tulloch 55. William Tulloch (not examined in chief), cross-examined—The £5 which the prisoner received from the pawning of the instruments he gave to me, I believe. I have known him some time, and have been on very friendly terms with him. I know of my own knowledge that he has suffered most acutely from neuralgia. I have found him in all his dealings a kindly man most certainly. He has lent me money on one or two occasions. I think I received the £5 on 24th November. I was temporarily pressed for money, and, understanding that Dr. Lamson was a man of means, I had written to ask him for it. I did not know how he obtained it. I received it from him personally. He came to my office in Moorgate Street. I think I can produce the press copy of my letter, but have not got it with me.

S. Harbord 56. Sidney Harbord—I am cashier at the American Exchange, Strand. The prisoner was a subscriber to the end of March. I saw him on 28th November last. He brought a cheque for £15 on the Wilts and Dorset Bank, and asked me to cash it. He told me he was Dr. Lamson, and was staying at Nelson's Hotel. I declined to do it in the absence of the head of the agency, and he took it away. This label, marked "Capsules," was attached to a parcel which came to the agency from New York for the prisoner about three weeks before 28th November. I cannot read the date; I can only see "ork." It was damaged coming through the post, and it would be put into a box kept for that purpose and given to the prisoner when he called. This is one of our receipts—"George H. Lamson, Esq., 5s. for one month, 30th March, 1881."

J. C. Nelson 57. James Creighton Nelson—I am the proprietor of Nelson's Hotel, Great Portland Street. The prisoner was staying at my hotel in November last year and down to December. I rendered him accounts on two or three occasions. The total

amount due was £7 17s. 7d. down to 2nd December. On 26th November I received this letter from him:— J. C. Nelson

Saturday Morning, 26, 11, 81.

Dear Sir,—I have been sent for to go with as little delay as possible to the place where my wife is now staying, as my little girl is quite ill, and my wife is terribly anxious about the child, and wishes besides to change her quarters. She will come to London for a short time until I leave for the Continent myself. As I am therefore very anxious to yield to her wishes, and as it would render it impossible for me to bring her back with me if I went into the city to procure the sum I require for the journey, her account, &c., up to the present time, I venture to ask you if you would be good enough to let me have £5 until my return with her in the evening (to-day). I should be very sorry to have to put you to any inconvenience, but I feel certain you will do this for me, knowing my parents, &c. If I do not catch the 10.30 train from Victoria I cannot return to-day, as it is important that I should. I should require the sitting-room (No. 29) which my mother had while here. The bedroom I now occupy would be naturally sufficient for my wife and self, but if she wishes the child to come here as well, I should require another room for her and the nurse. I shall ask you to kindly see that a large trunk be taken out of the left luggage room at Euston station and brought here and kept in a safe place, as it contains a quantity of silverplate and household valuables, worth a considerable sum. Mrs. Lamson wishes to have the plate, &c., and some music contained in the same trunk for her own use. Excuse the very bad and illegible manner I have written this note, but my eyesight is very bad by artificial light, and I have mislaid my glasses. Apologising for venturing to ask the favour I seek from you, I am, dear sir, yours faithfully, Geo. H. Lamson. (Room 30).

I did not comply with the request to let him have £5. On 29th November I received this letter from him—

Dr. Lamson (from room No. 30) begs that some one may be sent to M. Buzzard's, confectioner, &c., Oxford Street, two or three doors from the Pantheon, going towards Oxford Circus, and the following articles procured and brought here for Dr. Lamson, viz., one Dundee cake, 3s. size; 2 lbs. crystallized fruits, assorted. In these fruits the following fruits to be left out:—chinois, green or yellow, or limes, and nuts. Only the following to be sent in these fruits:—apricots (glacé, not crystallized), greengages (glacé, and only two or three of them), some small yellow plum cherries, "brochettes," knottes, and lunnettes. A large proportion of the three last articles in the 2 lbs. as ordered is desired. Dr. Lamson would suggest that the above order be shown to the attendant at Buzzard's, as the messenger could hardly be expected to remember the whole order as above given. Dr. Lamson begs there may be no delay in sending for these articles, as he wishes to take them with him to Harrow for a birthday gift, and he particularly wishes

J. C. Nelson to start early so as to be back soon to prepare for leaving for the Continent in the evening. As Dr. Lamson does not know the price of the articles he has ordered, he begs they may be paid for him, and he will settle when he comes down to breakfast.

Room No. 30, Nelson's Portland Hotel, November 29, 1881.

That was not complied with—I did not send for them and pay for them. I saw him on the Friday evening he left; he said he would take a portion of his luggage with him, and the remainder he would come for in about two hours; that he would pay his bill, and then start for the Continent. I did not see him again till I saw him at Wandsworth. The police searched the portmanteaus that were left with me. They are still in my possession.

Cross-examined—I had known his father. He came up in the early part of November. I understand he is a reverend gentleman, and is an American clergyman at Florence. His name was given as the Rev. Mr. Lamson.

David Ormond 58. David Ormond, recalled—The sum of £497 16s. 5d. in India Four Cents, a portion of Hubert's money, was transferred to the prisoner on 24th September, 1879, in Consols. The will of Mr. H. John, the father of the deceased, is here. Mrs. John had only a life interest.

Cross-examined—I do not know that the prisoner's wife was entitled to an equity of the settlement, which she waived.

W. G. Chapman 59. William Greenhill Chapman, recalled—The signature, "George Henry Lamson," to these two affidavits are the prisoner's, and also the signature to this agreement. (The affidavits stated that no settlement was made on or before the prisoner's marriage other than the agreement marked "B," which was dated 14th October, 1878, and recited that Kate John was possessed of six freehold mortgage bonds, guaranteed by the Mercantile Trust Company of New York, value 1000 dollars, for her sole and separate use, free from the control of any husband). I received this letter, dated 7th December, 1881, from the prisoner—

Paris, Wednesday Morning, December 7, 1881.

My Dear Will,—Your letter reached me on Monday night too late to catch any train except one, *via* Dieppe, and which I should have had to rush for. This the doctor would not allow me to do. I was so

prostrate at the sudden, awful, and most unexpected news that I became delirious very soon. I was obliged to remain in bed all day yesterday. Early this morning I saw the *Evening Standard*. I read therein the dreadful suspicion attached to my name. I need not tell you of the absolute falsity of such a fearful accusation. Bedbrook was present all the time I was in the house, and if there was any noxious substance in the capsule it must have been in his sugar, for that was all there was in it. He saw me take the empty capsule and fill it from his own sugar basin. However, with the consciousness that I am an innocent and unjustly accused man, I am returning at once to London to face the matter out. If they wish to arrest me they will have ample opportunity of doing so. I shall attempt no concealment. I shall arrive at Waterloo station about 9.15 to-morrow (Thursday) morning. Do try and meet me there. If I do not see you there I shall go straight to your house, trusting to the possibility of finding Kitty there. In great haste, yours truly, GEO. H. LAMSON.
W. G. Chapman, Esq. W. G. Chapman

Cross-examined—The marriage took place in October, 1878, to the best of my recollection. There is one little girl.

60. Inspector BUTCHER, recalled—The matter was put into my hands on Monday, 5th December. On the evening of the 7th I went to Mr. Chapman's at Willesden. Next morning, the 8th, I sent Sergeant Moser to Paris. On the morning of the 8th I was at Scotland Yard; the prisoner came there. I saw him in a room there, and he said, "Mr. Butcher?" I said, "Yes." He said, "My name is Lamson; I am Dr. Lamson, whose name has been mentioned in connection with the death at Wimbledon." I said, "Will you be seated?" He continued, "I have called to see what is to be done about it; I considered it best to do so; I read the account in the public papers at Paris, and came over this morning; I have only just now arrived in London; I am very unwell and much upset about this matter, and am not in a fit state at all to have undertaken the journey." I made a communication to Chief Superintendent Williamson, and then said to the prisoner, "You will have to remain for a time." I remained with him. His wife was present, and he conversed on various subjects for some time. He then said, "Where is the delay? I thought I would come here and leave my address. I am going into the country, to Chichester, so that you would know where to find me and attend the inquest. I have travelled from Paris *via* Havre and Southampton; I went over *via* Dover and Calais." I then Inspector Butcher

Inspector Butcher

again saw Chief Superintendent Williamson, and called the prisoner into another room. I said, "Your case has been fully considered, and it has been decided to charge you with causing the death of Percy John. I thereupon take you into custody, and charge you with causing the death of Percy Malcolm John at Blenheim House, Wimbledon, on 3rd December." He said, "Very well. Do you think bail will be accepted? I hope the matter will be kept as quiet as possible for the sake of my relations." I said, "You will now be taken to Wandsworth Police Court, and when before the magistrates the question of bail will rest with them." I conveyed him in a cab to Wandsworth, and on the way he said, "You will have my father here in a day or two. I hope it will be stated that I came to Scotland Yard voluntarily, and that I came from Paris on purpose." I said, "Certainly." I searched the prisoner at Wandsworth station and found two letters, one signed "J. W. L." and the other "W. Tulloch," an envelope containing his address in Paris, a pawnbroker's ticket for a case of surgical instruments and gold watch, a cloak-room ticket, a cheque book upon the Wilts and Dorset Bank, 7½ francs, 6½d. in bronze, and the diary produced. In the box at the Euston cloak-room I found some prescription books, a cloak-room ticket, books of various kinds, a quantity of music, several plated goods, and a large number of letters.

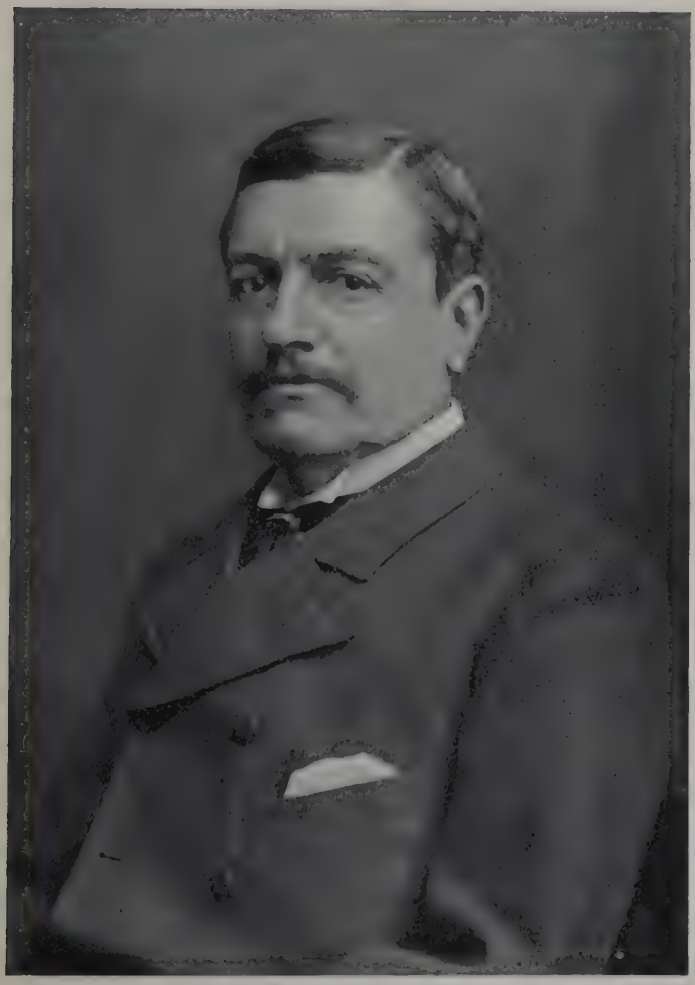
Cross-examined—When he came to Scotland Yard his wife came with him.

The Solicitor-General read from one of the books found in possession of the prisoner the following extract:—

> Effects of acrid vegetable poisons when swallowed—Soon after swallowing any of these poisons there is felt an acrid biting, more or less bitter tasting in the mouth, with great dryness and burning heat. The throat becomes painfully tight, with a sense of strangling, distressing retching, vomiting, and purging, and pains more or less severe in the stomach and bowels ensue, and those are succeeded by a quick and throbbing pulse, oppressed breathing and panting, a tottering gait, as if the patient were intoxicated, alarming weakness, sinking, and death. Sometimes there are convulsions, more or less severe, acute pain, causing plaintive cries, with stiffness of the limbs. The several poisons of this class vary much in the violence of their effects.

George Lamb

61. George Lamb—I am a porter at Wimbledon station, the South-Western line station. I was on duty there on the evening



Mr. Montagu Williams.

of 3rd December. Shortly before the 7.20 train was due the prisoner came on the platform and asked me if it was the Waterloo train. I told him that it was. He got into a carriage, and then asked me if there was time to change carriages. I told him there was, and he did so. He then asked me if I could send a message to Blenheim House, and I told him that I could take it. He wrote something on an envelope, and placed some money inside. I took it to Blenheim House, and left it there. George Lamb

At Mr. Williams's request the following letter was read, addressed to the prisoner's solicitor:—

Whitehall, December 15, 1881.

Sir,—The Secretary of State having had under his consideration your letter of the 13th inst., requesting that Dr. G. H. Lamson should be permitted to be represented by an analyst at the examination which is about to be made of the stomach and viscera of Malcolm John, deceased, I am directed to acquaint you that he is unable to comply with your request, the presence of a third medical man at an official analysis ordered by this department being contrary to all practice.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, A. F. O. Liddell.

A. W. Mills, Esq., 6 South Square, Gray's Inn, W.C.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

No witnesses were called for the defence.

Mr. Montagu Williams's Speech for the Defence.

May it please your lordship, gentlemen of the jury—On Wednesday morning last the prisoner at the bar was arraigned before you for the wilful murder of Percy Malcolm John. This is not a question of degree—there is no question at issue as to whether or not your verdict can be reduced from murder to manslaughter; and it is not a case in which, if found guilty, the prisoner is likely to have mercy extended to him. It is essentially, so far as he is concerned, a case of life and death, and I quite agree with the learned Solicitor-General when he states that, if the prisoner at the bar is guilty of this deed, he has committed a murder of the gravest kind. No doubt a case involving the issues of life or death is a most onerous one for all concerned, and particularly onerous for the jury. If this is so in ordinary cases of murder, the duty is a hundredfold more difficult in this instance, because you have not only Montagu Williams

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to determine upon questions of evidence, but you have to endeavour to traverse a region of science which up to the present moment has been unexplored—a particular branch of science which, I think I may safely say, is only yet in its infancy. You are asked to take a leap in the dark, and you are asked to take that leap without a gleam of scientific light to guide you. The case, as I am aware, has already occupied a very considerable time, and I can fully appreciate the care and anxiety which you have brought to bear in trying the charge. I should feel almost dismayed in the task which I have undertaken, and which I am about to discharge to the best of my ability, if I did not believe you would bring to bear upon this most difficult and delicate matter all your intelligence, all your sense of right, and all your acuteness. We have all witnessed the attention which you have paid to the evidence throughout this most painful investigation, and more than one of your body has from time to time put most opportune questions. I thank you one and all. To the best of my ability I have endeavoured not to lengthen the case unnecessarily, and I have tried, and I hope I have succeeded, in not putting a single question which has not been of the utmost importance.

I propose now to place before you two propositions. One is, did this unfortunate lad die from the administration of aconitine? Are you of opinion that he did so beyond all reasonable doubt? for, if you have any reasonable doubt, the prisoner at the bar is entitled to be acquitted. Secondly, if you are of opinion beyond all reasonable doubt that he did die from the administration of aconitine, then are you persuaded, beyond all reasonable doubt, that the aconitine was wilfully administered by the prisoner? I will deal with these propositions in the order I have placed them before you, and without, for the moment, tracing the evidence of witness after witness as they were called before you.

I will first take that branch of the evidence which for my purposes I will call the medical evidence. I cannot help thinking, subject to your better judgment, that to rely upon this in such a way as to sacrifice human life will be, to say the least, unsafe. This evidence is most unreliable. Who knows anything about aconitine? and echo answers "Who?" It is the root of the monk's-hood—aconite is the one form, and aconite contains

the active principle of that one form. Up to the present day, with the exception of one single case, there is no authority of any kind or sort upon the subject. This is the evidence of the medical men who have been called before you; each of these gentlemen admits that he knows nothing at all about aconitine. It is not my intention for a moment to attempt to cast a slur upon a very honourable profession, but, one after the other, the medical men, when questioned as to aconitine, say—"We know nothing at all about it." Dr. Berry is the first medical man who sees the deceased. He was not sent for—and I beg you will mark that—but he happened to be visiting at the house. Dr. Berry has described the symptoms to you. The first thing the deceased complained of was heartburn. Where is heartburn given as one of the symptoms of aconitine poisoning? After the consultation with Dr. Little, how do they treat the deceased, and for what? Irritation of the stomach? Was there at that time anything passing in the mind of Dr. Berry to lead him to believe that this lad was suffering from poison? Was there anything to lead him to suppose that he was suffering from any special poison? No, certainly not. Do not forget that. This boy was sensible up to the last. There is a discrepancy as to when he was carried upstairs, and I will deal with that at the proper time, but it was some time between eight and nine o'clock. He was carried from the bathroom to the bed, and, from the first to the last, there was every symptom of irritation of the stomach. The doctors acted on this belief, because from nine o'clock until past eleven, when the lad died, they never even attempted to use the stomach pump. No suggestion of any kind was made for its use. If poison was in the minds of these gentlemen—if they believed that poison had been administered—why did they not take some means for counteracting it? Not a single remedy was attempted which, if poison had been administered, would probably have saved the lad's life. Therefore I think you may take it for granted that, with regard to Dr. Berry, it never, up to the boy's death, entered into his mind that poison had been administered. Not only so, but, in reply to a question from me, Dr. Berry admitted that it was not until the post-mortem examination that he came to the conclusion that the lad had been poisoned. It was after the post-mortem examination, he said, that they came to that

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conclusion, and that death was caused by a vegetable alkaloid. It then became my duty to examine him as to his knowledge of vegetable alkaloids, and, as I have said, he candidly admitted that he knew nothing at all about them. Thus, even upon the evidence of the very first witness called for the prosecution, their case hopelessly fails. "I know nothing; I cannot answer your question. Although a scientific man, I am unable to assist you." Thus we are thrown back, not upon facts, but theories. My case is that the evidence of the scientific witnesses for the prosecution consists wholly and solely of theories. The witnesses confess that they cannot answer my questions, and that their minds are a blank with regard to this particular poison. Dr. Little gives the same replies as Dr. Berry with regard to aconitine; but he says "we" (and it is quite clear that he was wrong in doing so) in stating that the conclusion had been come to that the lad was suffering from an irritant vegetable poison about an hour before his death. Had "they" come to such a conclusion, it is very certain that remedies would have been applied, and the stomach pump used. Dr. Bond is a gentleman well known in this Court as a man of very considerable attainments, and he assisted at the post-mortem examination. But his opinions were based upon the symptoms as detailed to him by Drs. Berry and Little, and I think it requires but a very slight strain upon the imagination to come to the conclusion that it was he who first gave the other medical men the idea that it was a vegetable alkaloid. In reply to questions as to his knowledge of aconitine, he gives the same answers. Thus it comes to this, that, so far as I have gone, you are asked to say that the boy died from aconitine poisoning upon the evidence of a gentleman who was entirely ignorant of the symptoms. Or, rather, I may say, you are asked to give your verdict upon the evidence of gentlemen who say that they are entirely ignorant of the subject which you have to decide. There is not a particle of evidence so far that the lad died from aconitine poisoning. You must remember that aconitine is their case, and that death from aconitine is the case placed in issue by the Solicitor-General. Further, it is aconitine administered in a capsule on 3rd December that they stand or fall by.

The next witness to whom I shall draw your attention is one of great ability—Dr. Stevenson. He is the very first witness

called claiming to have a knowledge of vegetable alkaloids who positively associates the symptoms with them. And how does he arrive at the opinions he has placed before you? He says there are no direct means of tracing aconitine—there are no tests which can prove beyond the possibility of doubt the presence of aconitine—and there are no authorities upon the subject. He, however, founds his opinions upon the symptoms as detailed to him, and upon his experiments with mice, but he admits that most of the symptoms are consistent with other causes. Says Dr. Stevenson, "I take the symptoms *en masse*. No doubt they are consistent with other causes, but, at the same time, they are consistent with aconitine." He tells you that he carefully submitted the various things given to him to analysis, and that from the liver, spleen, kidneys, urine, and vomit he and Mr. Dupré obtained what they believed to be certain vegetable alkaloids when they tried with the test of taste, and upon some of the lower animals, about whose sufferings there seems to have been very little care—mice. "We tried them upon mice," they say, "and from the experiments, and from the taste, we have made up our minds that these vegetable alkaloids are aconitine." Here I should like to direct your attention to the process by which these results are obtained. He says, "I took half the contents of the stomach and mixed it with such a quantity of rectified spirit as, with that spirit previously added by Mr. Dupré, made the proportion of spirit to liquid taken, two volumes of spirit to one volume of liquid. The liquid which I took was acid in its reaction. The mixture was allowed to stand two days, from Saturday to Monday. It was then filtered, and the insoluble part was well and repeatedly washed with rectified spirits. The clear liquid was then evaporated at a temperature below that of the human body, until it was almost solid. The portion which had not been dissolved in spirit was then treated with an additional quantity of spirit, to which a little tartaric acid was added. The mixture was then warmed till it had a temperature of 140 degs. Fahr. It was then cooled. The mixture was filtered, the insoluble part was well and repeatedly washed with spirit, and the clear liquids obtained were evaporated at a temperature below that of the human body, till a fairly solid residue was obtained. I now obtained two

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alcoholic extracts, each of which was treated in a precisely similar manner, but separately, by digesting them with warm absolute alcohol, or, rather, tepid alcohol, till the alcohol would dissolve nothing more. These solutions in absolute alcohol were filtered and evaporated to dryness, or nearly to dryness. They were then treated with a little water. They were found to be acid in reaction, and the two solutions—that is to say, the one from the plain spirit and the other from the tartaric acid—were mixed. Care was taken that they remained just acid, distinctly but faintly acid, and the solution was then agitated with washed ether. The ether was allowed to separate and drain off, after which it was replaced by fresh ether; and this operation with the ether was carried out five times. The ether was set apart and allowed to evaporate at a temperature below its boiling point. That was reserved as not containing the alkaloid."

My object in calling your attention to this is to show you how the whole solution is changed about. What effect might not the ether have had upon it? From a solution it is reduced to a solution again; and because a mouse dies from such an injection as this the analysts come to the conclusion that the boy's death was occasioned by aconitine. Is this safe? I suggested on Saturday that I should read you a passage from a paper written by Lord Coleridge; but it was objected that anything Lord Coleridge said, he not being a medical man, was of no use. This is rather unfair. It is not because a man does not happen to be a professor of a particular science that he is no authority with regard to that science. Mr. Gladstone and the late Lord Derby have translated Homer, and as well might it be said that, because they were not professors at Oxford or Cambridge, their opinions were not worth anything. Yet I will undertake to say that both of these gentlemen knew more of Homer than all the professors put together. My object was to show you that the test of animals was not altogether reliable; and although I was prevented from quoting passages to that effect, I arrived at the same end by quoting the passage from Professor Tidy's book, which you will remember. But I will ask you to use your own common sense in this matter.

In this case little tame mice were used, and the operation

was commenced by pricking with a needle. Why, one of the mice, as you have heard, died under the process of pricking. Ordinary fright will kill a mouse without the infliction of pricking with a needle; and the injection of mere water will kill them. Yet, because these mice die within fifteen minutes of these injections you are to come to the conclusion that this was due to aconitine. Is it safe to rely upon such a test? Would you rely upon it in the ordinary affairs of life? Would you rely upon it in any question in which your own private interests were affected? If you say "No," can you rely upon it when the blood of this man is upon your shoulders? If it were possible to trace the action of the poison upon the interior of the animal it might be different, but the heart of a mouse and the liver of a mouse are so infinitesimally small as to be beyond the range of description. Possibly those mice died with a quiver—very likely they did—from the injection; but they were just as likely to have died from the injection of anything else. Montagu Williams

Then as to the taste. What is it they taste? The result of a mixture that has gone through a lengthy and laborious process too tedious almost for description. And because it is bitter to the taste, and has a burning sensation on the tongue, and is something like aconitine, you are to come to the conclusion that it is that alkaloid. Can you rely upon this? You must remember that the extract is taken from the contents of a human body many days after death. Dr. Stevenson admits the presence of morphia, which of itself is a vegetable alkaloid, in the liver, spleen, and kidneys. No morphia was present in the urine. The test, I again say, is most unreliable, and should not be depended upon in a case of life and death. I can assure you, to attempt to grapple with the evidence in this crude shape is not only a difficult but almost superhuman task.

You will remember that I questioned Dr. Stevenson as to the existence of cadaveric alkaloids, and he told you that, although he was inclined to believe in the theory, the matter was still *sub judice*. But whilst the scientific judgment is entirely unpronounced, and the medical mind is still open, you are to decide fatally the case so far as the prisoner is concerned. When, however, you have a gentleman like Dr.

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Stevenson tell you the matter is still *sub judice* I do invite you to pause. If cadaveric alkaloids do exist, you will remember that in this case it was six days after death before the post-mortem examination began. Considering all this, can you come to the conclusion that this was or was not aconitine? You must not forget when you come to the question of certainty or uncertainty; you must be of opinion that the matter is settled beyond the possibility of doubt, that this unfortunate lad died from the administration of aconitine. Is it so proved, or would not the Scotch verdict of "Not proven" be the proper verdict in this case? Should the proof fall short one iota, the prisoner, without my going into my second proposition, is entitled to your verdict upon my first proposition.

I do not propose now to go into the question of the analysis of the powders and the pills. This will come in its proper order. The evidence as to the aconitine is upon the solitary testimony of Dr. Stevenson, backed, as that is, by Mr. Dupré. Well, that is the first question you will have to decide; and I cannot help thinking that it would be dangerous to sacrifice even the life of one of your favourite dogs on such evidence. It may be said, by the by, "Why do you not call evidence to rebut this?" I will tell you. My suggestion is that the whole of this evidence is theoretical—it is speculative; and if I was in a position to place before you contrary opinions it would come to exactly the same thing. I say, and I think you will agree with me, that there is utter ignorance with regard to this aconitine. Besides, it will be unfair on the part of the Crown to challenge me upon that point, because they have put it entirely out of my power to do so.

The suggestion came from the prisoner that he should have an analyst present at the experiments. If the evidence of medical experts was to be taken against him, why, in the name of common fairness and common humanity, did you not allow him to have an analyst present to speak as to the means by which the analysis was conducted? We complain, and that bitterly, of this. Was there ever a greater piece of red-tapism than the letter which has been read from the Home Office? Says the Home Office, "The presence of a third medical man at an official analysis ordered by this Department is contrary to all

practice." If it is contrary to all practice, the sooner that practice is remedied the better. In common fairness, the prisoner was entitled to have some one. To try a man upon speculative theories on the one hand and upon an analysis taken behind his back on another is trifling with life. Montagu Williams

So much for the medical evidence, and if I am to be twitted with not calling witnesses, this is my explanation. It is impossible for me to call witnesses. I could not call them upon these facts, because it is proved to demonstration by the prosecution that the view they have set up is founded upon speculation only, and one for which there is no authority. The only chance that I could have in such a case was to have medical experts present at the analysis.

Now comes the question, should you be of opinion that this was a case of aconitine, who administered it? Was it administered by the prisoner? The evidence has gone to prove that he was exceedingly fond of his brother-in-law. You will remember that he was in the habit from time to time of visiting him at Wimbledon, and that the deceased frequently visited the prisoner. This I desire to place before you as strongly as I can, as it strikes me as being one of the strongest elements in my case, especially when you come to consider the post-card to the prisoner's loving wife, who, whatever others may say of him, still remains true and firm in her belief of his perfect innocence. [The prisoner at this point was visibly affected.] By this you will see that the boy was to travel down to Chichester in three weeks' time. If he had contemplated murder, if he had an assassin's intention in his head, why did he not wait until he had got the boy with him, and why did he, a medical man, go down to Mr. Bedbrook's school on 3rd December and administer the poison there? And administer the poison to get what? To get money to relieve his present necessities. I shall show you before I sit down that, in the course of two or three weeks, the prisoner would have had the boy in his own house and under his own care, when, if he had been sick, he could have marked his symptoms and might have called in a medical man; and yet, notwithstanding that in the brief space of two or three weeks he might have had the boy in his charge, it is suggested by the prosecution that he, for the paltry sum of £1500, sacrificed this boy's life. Why did

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he not wait till he had got him down to Chichester, where he would be safe with regard to the vomit, because he might have destroyed it? What speaks ten thousand times stronger in his favour was that, if he had taken him down there, he might have given the certificate of death. All this, however, he did not do, and I say it is unreasonable to suppose that the prisoner went to Wimbledon with such intentions as those that have been attributed to him. I quite admit that he was in straitened circumstances and that he was in great poverty; but poverty is not a crime. I asked the prosecution to desist from calling evidence upon that point, stating that I admitted the fact, but they still went on; witness after witness was called, and you heard it proved how executions were put into his house by tradesmen and so on. Whether or not this was done to prejudice your minds I do not know; but, if it was, I do not think it will succeed. To be unfortunately poor is one thing, but to commit an infamous and monstrous crime for the sake of obtaining money is another thing.

Supplemental to the observations I have made upon this point, and as to why the prisoner did not wait until the Christmas holidays if he had such murderous intentions, I may point out that the deceased was actually visiting the prisoner and staying at his home in the summer time, and during those visits he was perfectly safe. Now, I will just call your attention, while on this part of the case, to the matter of the post-card, which shows that the boy must have been in previous communication with the prisoner. The post-card was in these terms—

Dear old Kitten,—We break up on the 20th (Tuesday). I will write and tell you by what train I am coming.

From the language of that post-card it is certain that a previous communication must have passed between them, for he does not say, "Can I come?" But he speaks as if the whole matter had been settled and arranged that he should, and there was an understanding between them that he was to come. The only question was as to the train by which he should come. It is therefore perfectly clear, in the light of common sense, that there had been intercommunication between the prisoner's wife and the boy as to his coming down. And then, gentlemen, I say to murder a boy in the way it is alleged would be the work

of a lunatic, whereas, by waiting a fortnight, the prisoner might have committed the deed, if he had been so minded, with very great security against detection.

Now let me take you to Wimbledon. On the 2nd December there had been—and I think it will be most important for you to recollect the fact—examinations going on at the school; and it is important for you to remember that, according to the evidence of Mr. Bedbrook, the deceased was generally put about by those examinations, and that his health generally suffered. We have evidence as to the state of his body. He had two curvatures of the spine, one a dorsal curvature and the other a larger or lumbar curvature. He had also paralysis of the lower parts of the body. Seeing the condition of the body, I think it is a very curious thing if he should have been a healthy boy. It is most unlikely that he was, and we have it in evidence that these examinations generally troubled him very much. You will recollect also that, when the prisoner arrived at the school, Mr. Bedbrook said, "I am glad you did not come yesterday, because the boy was under examination." Then you have the evidence of Mr. Bedbrook as to the curvature of the spine, which, he said, was becoming worse, and this fact is borne out by evidence of more witnesses than one. It is with reference to this matter that the prisoner says, "I don't think he will live long"; but you must remember, if that is to be taken as evidence against the man, that he has said that over and over again, long before this occasion, and he had expressed his medical opinion that the boy's curvature of the spine would sooner or later end fatally.

On the occasion when the prisoner saw him the boy was brought down to the room—carried down. There were other persons in the room, and he partook of cake and sweetmeats. It is not suggested that there was anything the matter with the cake or sweets. They have been analysed, but no poisonous matter was found in them. There were three people in the room. Mr. Bedbrook stood at an elevation, that is to say, he was standing up, whilst the prisoner was sitting down, and as near to Percy John as I am to my friend sitting next me. The suggestion of the prosecution is—nay, it is their case—that in the presence of these two persons the capsule was produced by the prisoner, and either that he had already placed

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in this capsule enough aconitine to destroy something like three lives, or that he manipulated the aconitine into the capsule while he was there. Now, what is there to support that? What does Mr. Bedbrook say? He says, both before the coroner and the magistrate, and he repeats it in answer to me in the Court, "I saw him fill the capsule with sugar he took from the basin," that is to say, "I, with my two eyes, saw him fill the capsule with the sugar he took from the basin." No living eyes perceived that there was anything in the capsule. Why, there was the boy sitting next to him, and Mr. Bedbrook standing up on the other side in, as I have said, an elevated position. Mr. Bedbrook himself takes a capsule, and then the prisoner says, "Percy, you are a swell pill-taker; take this." Where is there a trace or particle of evidence that in that capsule he put anything else than sugar? As far as we know, the prisoner took the capsule out of the box. There is no evidence to the contrary. There is no evidence that he took one out of his pocket, but there is evidence that he took one out of the box at haphazard. If the theory of the prosecution is correct, the prisoner must have put the poisonous capsule into the box, utterly careless as to whether Mr. Bedbrook took it out or not. In the absence of anything like evidence, therefore, what conclusions are we to arrive at? Now, mark me, the capsules were taken—one by the deceased, one by Mr. Bedbrook, and one by Banbury—not an important matter for your consideration when I come to deal with another branch of this matter.

It was suggested by the Solicitor-General—and here again a life is to be sacrificed upon a mere theory—that the prisoner asked for some sugar to disguise the appearance of what was in the capsule. Did he ask for powdered sugar? Certainly not. Then how can this be a blind? He asked for sugar, and stated that he simply wanted to put it into his sherry. To his mind the sugar did away with the alcoholic effects of the sherry. What was there, I ask, to prevent them bringing lump sugar to him? As a rule, lump sugar would have been used in such a case, and not powdered sugar. If he required powdered sugar, why, I ask, did he not ask for it?

For some time after the prisoner left the deceased did not complain of sickness, and he only complained, just before

going to bed, of heartburn, which is consistent with indigestion, and utterly inconsistent with aconitine. For some twenty minutes he was left in the dining-room alone, after the prisoner went away. He was afterwards taken up to his room, and Mr. Bedbrook became alarmed at his symptoms. Asked how he felt, the boy then said, "I feel as I felt when my brother gave me a quinine pill at Shanklin." Now, gentlemen, weigh the words well, for they were used by Dr. Berry and Mr. Bedbrook. Mr. Bedbrook examined the box of capsules, which were lying upon the table, after the prisoner left, and he found amongst them four or five quinine pills. How had those pills come there? It is perfectly clear that no quinine pills were given to the boy by the prisoner in the room there that night—that is, in the sight of any one. Mr. Bedbrook was present the whole time, and he would have seen if there had been any given, or if there had been any mention of it. The only thing said about the pills was, "You are a swell pill-taker." Mr. Bedbrook took one capsule out of the box, and he had an ample opportunity of seeing the pills, had they been there; so that it is perfectly clear that the pills did not come from the prisoner, who did not give the boy anything, save and except the cake and the fruit. Montagu Williams

The Solicitor-General—And the capsule.

Mr. Montagu Williams—Yes, the capsule. I intend to be perfectly free and open to the jury. Where could the boy have got them from? They certainly did not come from the prisoner. Where was the boy all the afternoon? He was downstairs. What was found subsequently in his box? Why, pills; and not one pill, as I will show you, can be traced to the prisoner. The boy was in the room downstairs, and was able to get about. Here I have a very grave complaint to make against some of the witnesses for the prosecution, inasmuch as they studiously concealed from us the fact that the boy was able to get about. I shall show you that he was able to crawl about from place to place. I would have you remember, also, that this boy kept medicine unknown to any person in the school. According to the evidence, the only person who was allowed to give medicine was the matron, who was called before you. The boys did not keep their own

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medicine; they were not allowed to do so; and yet you find that not only is this boy in the possession of quinine powders, but also pills, utterly unknown to a single soul in the establishment. Now, did he himself take a pill that night? Did he himself take one of the powders that night? Here is that boy—"the swell pill-taker"—fond of taking medicines, with new capsules before him. What more likely than that he should have taken one of the pills on this occasion? He had an attack of heartburn. What more likely than that he should have had it? It is suggested, on the part of the prosecution, that the pills found in the play box were sent a long time ago from America by the prisoner. That idea, however, is exploded by Mr. Bedbrook's evidence.

Mr. Bedbrook says that the boy, having taken one of the pills sent from America, said he did not like it; that he felt ill after taking it—which is not a very extraordinary circumstance in taking pills—and that he would rather not take more. Upon that, Mr. Bedbrook took the pills from the boy and destroyed them. At least, though he will not say that he really did destroy them, he will most distinctly swear that he never gave them to the boy again. If you come to the conclusion that this was one of the pills that Dr. Lamson brought from America you must do so in direct opposition to the evidence of the prosecution, for they have proved to demonstration that these pills were destroyed, or if not destroyed, were not given back to the deceased. There were four or five pills found in this box, and there is nothing to show that the deceased might not have had one in his waistcoat pocket. There is nothing to prove to the contrary—there is nothing to prove that he did not take a pill himself. One witness says deceased said, "I feel as I felt after my brother had given me a quinine pill at Shanklin." Had the prisoner given a pill on 3rd December he would have said so. The boy himself never suggested that the prisoner had given him anything—he never even mentioned the capsule, which shows to my mind plainly enough that he did not for a moment suspect anything wrong. He had the whole of his faculties about him, and yet when he was questioned he did not say, as you would expect him to have said, "He has given me another pill; he must have given it me in that capsule." The

matron of the school, Mrs. Bowles, was examined before the coroner, and before the magistrates, and she said that the deceased was very ill, and vomited, and that he stated that he had taken a quinine pill. Not a syllable more. The same applies to some of the other witnesses. It is only in this Court that we hear from them that the pill was given at Shanklin. Montagu Williams

Mr. Bedbrook has told you that a letter subsequently came from the prisoner with 4s. 6d. for the deceased. I suppose that the prosecution are about to say that this was part of the diabolical scheme that he had conceived for destroying the boy's life, and that he only sent the money as a blind, knowing well that the lad was then in the agonies of death. I cannot for the life of me understand why so much evidence was called for the purpose of misleading you as to this boy being able to get downstairs. Time in this case is of the greatest importance. Dr. Stevenson agrees that in cases of aconitine poisoning symptoms would be apparent in from a few minutes to two hours.

The Court adjourned at four o'clock.

Sixth Day—Tuesday, 14th March.

The Court met at 10.30.

Montagu Williams

Mr. Montagu Williams continued his speech for the defence. I propose before I continue the thread of the observations which I was making when the Court adjourned last evening to draw particular attention to one or two matters which I do not think I sufficiently dwelt upon. I complain, and bitterly complain, and shall do so to the end of the chapter, of the conduct of the Home Secretary in not allowing an analyst to be present on behalf of the prisoner. It is not the practice of the Home Office to permit analysts to be present on the part of the accused; still, in a matter of life and death that rule should be relaxed, or at least the residue about which you have heard so much, should have been submitted to some one on the part of the prisoner. When I was speaking of the time which elapsed from the alleged administration of the poison until the death of the poor boy, I should have drawn your attention—and I beg you will not forget this—to the fact that Dr. Bond has stated that the ordinary time for one of these capsules melting is from two to three minutes. I now shall read to you an extract from Dr. Christison's book on poisons, wherein it is stated "evidence of experiments on"——

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Is that not rather a matter for cross-examination? If you read that it will, of course, be open for the Solicitor-General to read extracts from any book he may think fit.

Mr. Montagu Williams—Dr. Christison is dead, I cannot call him.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—No, no; you do not understand me. When Dr. Stevenson was in the witness-box you should have asked him if that book was an acknowledged authority by men of science. He might then have explained or qualified it.

Mr. Montagu Williams—Well, I do not know; but it appears very hard upon me if I am not allowed to read it.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—As far as I am concerned, I have only to rule as to what is legal evidence and what is not. I

have no discretion in the matter if the Solicitor-General objects. Montagu Williams

Mr. Montagu Williams—Oh, well, my book is closed.

The Solicitor-General—I do not know what the book is, my lord.

Mr. Montagu Williams—Would you like to see it?

The Solicitor-General—It seems to me that it is something that has occurred since the cross-examination of the witnesses.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—If you read it you will open the whole field of writings by dead authors.

Mr. Montagu Williams—Oh, well, if there is the slightest discussion about it I will not insist upon it. [Proceeding with his address to the jury.] When we adjourned last evening I was about to call your attention to the sale of the aconitine upon 24th November. It appears to me to be a very important element in the case, and I think I shall prove that not only is the evidence of the two men called from Messrs. Allen & Hanbury's utterly unreliable, but I shall show you that it is not at all probable. Atropia, it is much more likely, was bought than aconitine. I would call your attention particularly to the evidence of the witness Dodds. He, in his first conversation with Betts, said, "Do you remember the sale of atropia?" "Yes," was the reply; and the only question between them then, and for some hours afterwards, was as to whether it was atropia or sulphate of atropia. Can you have any doubt that it was not aconitine but atropia? It is a remarkable thing, when we consider what has been proved, that the prisoner was in the habit of purchasing atropia. There is no doubt about this, and there can be none. It appears in the two prescriptions which have been placed in evidence by the prosecution. Which is more probably right? How came the chemists' assistants to dream of atropia when atropia was the very drug the prisoner was in the habit of using? What was it that changed their opinion? The 2s. 6d.—this book (the petty cash-book of the firm). Neither of the two men could tell the day of the month or the day of the week when the purchase was made, but they do remember that aconitine is 1s. 3d. per grain, and finding an entry of 2s. 6d., and a "C" against it, denoting a sale to a medical man, they jumped to the conclusion that it was aconitine, and

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aconitine only. You have heard it stated that atropia is 4d. per grain, and, oddly enough, on 29th November, is an entry in this very book of 8d., with a "C" against it. Considering the doubt of the two assistants as to the day of the week and date, and their first discussions as to its being atropia, who is likely to be right? I humbly submit that the probabilities are all in favour of the accused.

The next witness was Mr. Stirling, a gentleman from Messrs. Bell's, the well-known chemists of Oxford Street. He proved, not a sale, but a suggestion of a sale of aconitine, to the prisoner—that is, that the prisoner went to his shop and wanted to buy a grain of aconitine. Pray bear in mind that unguentum aconitiæ is an acknowledged remedy for rheumatism and neuralgia, and it has been proved that the prisoner was a martyr to those complaints. Therefore, it was quite legitimate for the prisoner to have aconitine in his possession. I submit that if the prisoner intended to commit this hideous crime he would not have stated at the chemists', as he did, that he was staying at Nelson's Hotel, where he might be identified in every respect, and where the police might have laid hands upon him at once.

The next witness was Mr. Littlefield, the chemist, of the Isle of Wight. He gives evidence as to a most important matter in this case—the sale of the quinine powders. He proved the sale of twelve quinine powders of a large size. Six of these powders have been taken by somebody, and probably mainly by the unfortunate boy to whom they were sent. One of them was taken by Banbury, with no ill effect, and there is not a suggestion that there was anything harmful or injurious in these powders. Where are the remainder of these twelve? They are produced before you, and, having been analysed by Dr. Stevenson, it is not suggested that there was any poison in them. With regard to powders Nos. 16, 17, and 19, which were found in the boy's box, and which would be the remainder of those purchased at the Isle of Wight, when they were analysed aconite was discovered. In one a considerable quantity was found, but very little trouble was taken in analysing the others—why, I do not know. Dr. Stevenson says he could not tell the quantity of aconite in the other two, but he says it was present. I should have thought that it

beg, to entreat, to beseech you, with these last tones of my voice, not to found your verdict upon speculative theories and visionary ideas; but to test, and try, and weigh—and accurately weigh—every particle of the evidence—real, solid, cogent evidence—before you come to a verdict antagonistic to this man. Into your hands I commend a brother's life, for, no matter what our nationality or creed may be, by the common tie of human nature all men are brothers. I can only beg you, lastly, to extend towards him—your brother—that upon which, in my humble judgment, all true religion is founded; do unto him—your brother, as you would if you were placed in such dire straits, that your brethren should do unto you, and may the Lord direct you right. Montagu Williams

The Solicitor-General's Reply for the Prosecution.

Every topic that can be urged on the part of the accused has been adduced and expounded by my learned friend. Here as I am to represent the administration of the law, my only desire is that right and justice shall be done, and I certainly am desirous that the whole of the evidence should be fairly weighed in the scale, and that anything and everything which tells in the prisoner's favour shall have its due influence. I shall endeavour to say nothing that shall excite your feelings or disturb your judgment, but I shall have to direct your attention to some of the arguments used by my friend, in order that the facts, as proved in evidence, may have their due weight in the interests of justice. You have heard the conclusions of the medical and scientific witnesses described as mere speculations and theories, and as not entitled to your consideration, but I cannot help thinking that if you accept such a view it will be quite open to any one who desires to take the life of a fellow-creature to select a poison little known, and he will be perfectly safe. But I think if persons used this scientific knowledge for criminal purposes by administering a substance little known and seldom used, they will find that science will suggest unerring means for exposing and bringing to light that which may have been attempted. My learned friend has stated that there are but two propositions in the Solicitor-General

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allege that the prisoner bought aconitine on 28th August for the purpose of giving it to the lad; and Mr. Poland sought to prove it by the most circuitous routes. There were four persons, as I have said, of the name of Lamson in the island, and there is not a particle of evidence to show you that, after the Saturday, until his sailing for America, the prisoner at the bar was ever in company with the boy. But if he were, what then? A total overthrow of all the suppositions and speculations of the prosecution.

You say that the deceased, while at the Isle of Wight, suffered from illness. I maintain, however, that it was not an illness but an indisposition, and that is corroborated by the evidence of Mr. Chapman, who married the deceased's sister. The symptoms of the indisposition were nothing like those followed by the taking of aconitine. There was every indication that the boy was suffering from an impaired digestion, and not from the effects of aconitine; and there was medical evidence that the boy, having dined at half-past one o'clock on 3rd December, at Wimbledon, there was found in the vomit at nine o'clock in the evening undigested food. I believe I have now dealt successfully with the Shanklin episode.

With regard to the evidence of Mr. Joliffe, I may say that we heard first from that witness—and it was with great surprise that I heard it—that the boy was able to get up and down stairs. On that matter we are told by witnesses from Wimbledon that it was utterly impossible for the deceased to do that, and I would have you mark the difference of the two statements.

A number of witnesses have been called to prove the impecuniosity of the prisoner. That I have admitted throughout the case, and I cannot understand why the prosecution should have heaped Pelion on Ossa as they have done.

There were called before you two witnesses of the name of Tulloch, and their evidence, I may say, was strangely in contrast. The letter which the witness John Law Tulloch forwarded to the prisoner, requesting a loan of £20, spoke of "adding one to the list of favours and kindnesses" which he (the witness) had received from the prisoner. The world is now against the prisoner, and if there can be proved in evidence some little thing in his favour, don't, I beg you, discard and

disregard it. He exhibited great kindness to the witness, and also to his brother, and pawned his surgical instruments in order to meet a request on the part of the latter for a loan. If he has got a good trait in his character, in God's name, I trust you will let him have the benefit of it. I cannot tell you the prisoner's account, for by law I am not permitted to do so. Montagu Williams

Mr. Justice Hawkins (interrupting)—Do not let that be misunderstood. The prisoner cannot be sworn, but his counsel can make his statement for him.

Mr. Montagu Williams—I am much obliged to my lord.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—I do not like it to be understood that the prisoner's mouth is closed; but you are not permitted yourself to make a statement, instead of the prisoner, of facts.

Mr. Montagu Williams—I am not going to do that, my lord. To proceed—It is admitted that, on 2nd December, the boy was passing through an examination, and he was generally on those occasions in an excited state. The prisoner on the day in question went down to Wimbledon in company with one of the witnesses—Tulloch; and it has been suggested that the witness, who gave a different account of his conversation with the prisoner at the Police Court to what he has given here before you, was on that night the worse for liquor. The only man who can corroborate this statement is the prisoner, and my lord says he cannot be sworn. But I have my duty to discharge, and I put a question to the brother to the following effect—"Is your brother, late in the afternoon, sometimes the worse for liquor?" To that question the Solicitor-General very promptly objected, and said that it was not evidence. The question was not pressed, for I was not allowed to press it.

With regard to the two brothers, I cannot help saying, "Look on this picture and on that." One of them proved that which I have been seeking to prove throughout the whole of the case—that the prisoner was a martyr to neuralgia and rheumatism, and, as I have already said, aconitine is the remedy for those complaints. Bear in mind, with regard to the Isle of Wight transaction, that the prisoner was said to have bought the aconitine on 28th August, and that he sailed for America on the 30th of the same month. Under these circumstances, would it not—I put it to you—be the very time, when he was going on a voyage to the United States, to provide himself with

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aconitine to relieve the complaints I have mentioned as those to which he was subject?

Now, as to the arrest, what was the man's conduct? The boy was dead, and suspicion fastened upon him—the last man who was in the boy's presence before the symptoms showed themselves; that is, the last man, as far as the evidence went, from whom he received anything that he took into his stomach. That is a very strong point. What does he do; does he fly? No. It may be said, where can he fly to? There are countries where there is no extradition, and where this law cannot reach him. He was out of this country and was in France. He knew that all the appearances were against him; that he was the last person seen; and that suspicion was fastened upon him by the newspapers. He knew the danger that he was in; and yet, did he seek to cover his crime by flight? No; he returned back to this country of his own free will and accord. That circumstance, I think, should be taken into account in the prisoner's favour. He came to Scotland Yard and was taken before the magistrate. There, however, he thought of some one else besides himself; he thought of his father and mother, and expressed the hope that the matter would not be made public on account of his relatives. I do not think that that is the conduct of a guilty man, and I trust you will be of the same opinion.

Then it is said that motive was not absent in this case—nay, that the motive was powerful which induced the man to commit this crime, and that he murdered this poor lad for the purpose of obtaining the sum of £1500, which he would have been entitled to on his death. I would have you observe that the prisoner must have known very well that, if the boy died, he would not receive any of the money for three months, for all the children were wards in Chancery. Moreover, he, as a man of education, would know that, if there were suspicions of foul play, no money would be paid over. No money, I may say, has been paid over. In the ordinary course of nature the poor boy could not live long, and the prisoner knew that. The curvature was growing worse, and the boy was suffering from disease of the lungs, so that it was impossible that he could live long. Why, then, should the prisoner anticipate his death by committing the act attributed to him? It is in the highest

degree improbable that the prisoner should risk his life in order to bring about a state of things which must have been brought about naturally and without the commission of any crime. Montagu Williams

These are observations which you must weigh, and, if they are worth anything, I am sure you will not discard them. I have shown you how this crime might have been committed in safety. I have shown you that, if the prisoner meditated the death of this boy, the Christmas holidays were coming on, and he, as a medical man, could have committed the crime alleged and very easily have done away with the traces of it. The victim would have been in his power; the boy would have been in his hands and in his house. I have called your attention to that, because I think it is a matter well worthy of your consideration. I have called your attention to the unreliability of the evidence of the experts as to the existence of aconitine. I have called your attention to the fact that everything traced to the hands of the prisoner is innocuous and harmless, and that the things which they say are charged with aconitine are in no way brought home to the possession of the prisoner. And here, I say, the prosecution have failed in proving the case laid before you. I have called your attention to the length of time which elapsed between the alleged taking of the poison and the poor boy's death; and, gentlemen, I have now almost done.

My responsibility, which, believe me, is one which I would never willingly incur again—it is heavy enough—will in a few moments be shifted. The responsibility which hangs upon the shoulders of my lord, combined with mine, will finally be removed to yours; for with you the responsibility of this verdict must rest.

Gentlemen, juries have made mistakes; judges have made mistakes; and, although judges tell juries, and tell them earnestly and sincerely—for the judges of this country are one of its brightest ornaments—although they tell juries, intending that they should act upon what they say, not to take any expression of opinion from them, because the responsibility rests with the twelve men who have to try the case; yet, gentlemen, in my humble opinion, when you come to consider that our judges are in many cases elevated to the bench from being the most successful of advocates and the highest ornaments of

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advocacy in their profession, you must feel that it is difficult for a judge, or any human being who has been a successful advocate, and who has been one of the brightest orators of the age, entirely to divest himself of oratory. The lion cannot change his skin; the leopard cannot change his spots; and, however unwilling a judge may be that any sentence or word of his might affect the opinion of the jury, the tones that have so long charmed never lose their charm, however much it may be desired—"the right hand" never forgets "its cunning." I make these observations with all sincerity and with all respect, knowing that they will be taken in the sense in which they are meant.

Gentlemen, I now come to what is to me the most painful part of my duty. I have told you that you have the life of a fellow-creature in your hands. In reality you have a trinity of lives in your hands. You have three people to consider. This man has a wife. Who stood by him in the hour of poverty? That wife. Did you notice her on the first day? A thin, spare figure came up to that dock and took him by the hand, saying by her presence, "Though all men be against you, though all the world be against you, in my heart there is room for you still." Gentlemen, they say that women are inferior creatures, but in the hour of retribution it may be said of women—

> When pain and anguish wring the brow,
> A ministering angel thou.

She had sworn at the altar to love, honour, and obey him. It is well that the compilers of the solemn service put "love" first, for where there is woman's love the others follow, as a matter of course; and up to this moment she has stood, so to speak, by his side. Gentlemen, if the prisoner be convicted, and his life be sacrificed, what a legacy is there for her! What a reward for all her true nobility, and for all that is softest and best in life—a widowed home, a cursed life, and a poor little child never to be taught to lisp its father's name, its inheritance the inheritance of Cain!

I make these observations, gentlemen, not with any desire to make you deviate by one hair's-breadth from the path of duty which you are bound to tread; but I do make them to

beg, to entreat, to beseech you, with these last tones of my voice, not to found your verdict upon speculative theories and visionary ideas; but to test, and try, and weigh—and accurately weigh—every particle of the evidence—real, solid, cogent evidence—before you come to a verdict antagonistic to this man. Into your hands I commend a brother's life, for, no matter what our nationality or creed may be, by the common tie of human nature all men are brothers. I can only beg you, lastly, to extend towards him—your brother—that upon which, in my humble judgment, all true religion is founded; do unto him—your brother, as you would if you were placed in such dire straits, that your brethren should do unto you, and may the Lord direct you right. **Montagu Williams**

The Solicitor-General's Reply for the Prosecution.

Every topic that can be urged on the part of the accused has been adduced and expounded by my learned friend. Here as I am to represent the administration of the law, my only desire is that right and justice shall be done, and I certainly am desirous that the whole of the evidence should be fairly weighed in the scale, and that anything and everything which tells in the prisoner's favour shall have its due influence. I shall endeavour to say nothing that shall excite your feelings or disturb your judgment, but I shall have to direct your attention to some of the arguments used by my friend, in order that the facts, as proved in evidence, may have their due weight in the interests of justice. You have heard the conclusions of the medical and scientific witnesses described as mere speculations and theories, and as not entitled to your consideration, but I cannot help thinking that if you accept such a view it will be quite open to any one who desires to take the life of a fellow-creature to select a poison little known, and he will be perfectly safe. But I think if persons used this scientific knowledge for criminal purposes by administering a substance little known and seldom used, they will find that science will suggest unerring means for exposing and bringing to light that which may have been attempted. My learned friend has stated that there are but two propositions in the **Solicitor-General**

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case. I entirely agree with him, and shall confine my remarks to them. In the first place, then, what was the cause of the death of this lad? That will be the first matter; and I will ask you to put on one side all other considerations, and to take this by itself. You must, in considering the circumstances, look at the surroundings—the chain of evidence which has been adduced. That the lad did not die from natural causes is beyond question. That the death was due to poison is perfectly clear. The medical men were of this opinion, as they have sworn, or why did they collect the vomit? Why did they take charge of the wafers, the cake, and other things? Then comes the post-mortem examination, but nothing to account for death. I am not going to taunt my learned friend as to his not calling witnesses—it was a matter for his consideration and those advising him. I am glad—exceedingly glad—to see that he was not alone, but that he was advised by a gentleman of the greatest eminence in this particular branch of science. You heard the questions, but no evidence in defence is forthcoming, and what conclusions can you arrive at? It seems to me, looking at the evidence that has been given, and the absence of evidence on the other side, that it is impossible to doubt that but poison, and poison alone, was the cause of the boy's death. Then, what was the nature of the poison? Here, again, you are thrown back upon the scientific evidence. My learned friend has explained that no one was allowed to be present on the part of the prisoner. I am inclined to believe that the practice referred to is a very sound one. The gentlemen selected were of the highest eminence—they were not appointed to prop up any theory or to make out any particular speculation. Had the Home Office allowed the application there would have been no control as to the person who would be appointed. Many of the operations were of the most delicate nature; they required the utmost care, and an inopportune question put by some one who was not so much interested in arriving at the truth might have prevented any reliable result being obtained. The whole minutiæ of the analysis were detailed to you, and there were listening and noticing gentlemen of the greatest experience. They were present to look out for the weak link in the chain, and if any mistake had been made, you would have

heard of it. No such contradictory evidence is produced, and I cannot comment too strongly on this fact. I do not utter it as a taunt; but it is a question all important to you when you come to consider the evidence. You can only conclude that the analysis was properly conducted. The test of taste is the best and surest that could have been adopted, and beyond doubt you have it proved that it was aconitine, characteristic and sufficient as this was. Dr. Stevenson did not rely upon this only, but took other steps to verify his conclusions. Something has been said of the experiments on the mice, but would any analyst, at the risk of injustice, or it may be the loss of human life, have been justified in sparing any means in his power of establishing the conclusions which were arrived at? It is upon the combined results which you have to judge, and can you have any manner of doubt that the alkaloids found were aconitine? Then, upon the second point, who administered the aconitine? Mr. Williams has argued that the deceased might have taken a pill himself, and attention is drawn to four or five pills being found amongst the capsules. It is said that the prisoner could not have placed them there. I do not think that has been proved. Where did the boy get the aconitine from? I have listened in vain to any suggestion as to where the pills and the powders mixed with aconitine could have been obtained if not from the prisoner. So deadly is aconitine that the law has fenced the sale of it about with safeguards which render it impossible for persons who are not well known to procure it. It is more than probable that the lad never heard of the drug, and that the aconitine was supplied by the prisoner. What was the conduct of the prisoner? My friend has said that the act would be that of a lunatic, but you must remember that people who do commit crimes invariably make some mistake. Might not the prisoner have reasoned in this way—"Who knows anything of aconitine? What medical man knows anything at all about it?" It was not so certain that the prisoner, by waiting two or three weeks, could have effected his object with safety. The very openness with which he is alleged to have committed this deed is against him, for does he not himself appeal to the witnesses as proof positive of his innocence? You will remember the visit the

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prisoner paid to Wimbledon upon the evening before the murder. What could have been his object in going there, and of telling the falsehood to the witness Tulloch, unless it was that he went there with the intention of committing the deed then, but that his heart failed him, and he shrank from doing that which he had contemplated and which he succeeded in doing the following evening? The prosecution have proved that the prisoner did purchase aconitine shortly before that occurrence, and when you come to consider this you must take the evidence of the young men from Allen & Hanbury's in conjunction with the application which the prisoner undoubtedly made at Messrs. Bell's, in Oxford Street, when he was refused aconitine. Nor can you dissociate this with the purchase of aconitine by the prisoner in the Isle of Wight. At the time when the young men changed their minds aconitine had never been mentioned in connection with the case, and the post-mortem examination had not even been commenced. Then there is the incident at Shanklin, the illness of the boy, the purchase of aconitine by the prisoner the day before, and the day following its administration the prisoner on his way to America. The same order is exhibited in the second case. The prisoner purchases aconitine a few days previous to this occurrence, he goes down to Wimbledon, administers something, and the same evening he is on his way to Paris. You have the same order of things in both cases. Then, as to the motive. What upon one mind would have no influence would upon another have overpowering effects. Prisoner was in straitened and desperate need of money; he was drawing fictitious cheques, and so pressed for money that he was tempted to bring himself within the power of the criminal law. He was exactly in the position when temptation would have its effects, and when he would do that which he would never have dreamed of had he been in better circumstances. It was in favour of the prisoner that he returned, but it is not likely that he returned believing that the drug would not be found in the body, and knowing, as he did, that then the only thing which pressed against him was his absence in Paris? But the prisoner was without means, and without prospects, and it was impossible for him to make his escape.

You have now heard the whole facts of this case. It is not

Sir Henry Hawkins and his dog Jack.

Photo. by W. H. Bustin, Hereford.

your duty to weigh the consequences of the verdict, or to be influenced by them. You must judge by the facts, stifling emotion, and shutting your eyes to the consequences. If, so judging the case, clouds of doubt arise in your minds, then let the prisoner have the benefit; but if you should be of the opinion that the facts have been brought home without doubt, then, by the duty you owe to society, and for the safety of the public, you are bound to give your verdict against him. Solicitor-General

The Judge's Summing Up.

After the luncheon interval Mr. Justice Hawkins addressed the jury as follows:— Justice Hawkins

It would be a very poor compliment to you, after the patient attention which you have paid throughout this very protracted and anxious trial, if I thought it necessary to remind you of the very solemn duty which you are now called upon to perform. It is absolutely impossible to over-rate the importance of the case or the magnitude of the issues which are raised before you. The learned counsel on both sides agree, and public interests demand, that if in your opinion the prisoner is guilty of the crime imputed to him, you should fearlessly pronounce him so by your verdict. The responsibility is one which attaches entirely to you. The judge has no share, and he ought not to have it, in the determination of matters of fact. It is my duty as far as I can to assist you in forming your judgment, and in doing this I shall carefully conceal from you any opinions which I myself may have formed. I shall not intimate to you any views of my own; and, even if I had the power to persuade you to adopt any opinions I myself have found, I do assure you that I should abstain from exercising that right, because I desire on the present occasion that you, and you alone, should pass judgment upon the whole of the issues.

The prisoner is indicted for the crime of wilful murder, and no conflicting question can arise by which you can find the prisoner guilty of a lighter crime. The case is also free from any question of law—it is a pure question of fact—and if, as is contended and urged on the part of the Crown, he did, by a wilful act of his, cause the death of the poor young man whose

Justice Hawkins

name has been so frequently mentioned during this inquiry, it would be the most idle thing in the world for any one to suggest for a single moment that the crime does not amount to that of wilful murder, and that in one of its worst forms. The questions you have to determine, then, were rightly and properly stated to you by the learned counsel when they said that the issues you had to decide were, Did the deceased, Percy Malcolm John, come by his death by poison? and, if he did, was that poison administered by the prisoner? In order to sustain these indictments you must be satisfied by the evidence which has been adduced on the part of the Crown that the crime has been established to your satisfaction and beyond the possibility of doubt. If you are not so satisfied, the prisoner has the right, and he claims at your hands, not the mere benefit of the doubt, but the right of an acquittal; for by the law of this country no man can be convicted of a crime unless that crime is proved. If it is not proved the jury have no alternative in the conscientious discharge of their duty to say so, and the prisoner is entitled to his acquittal.

In this case it is contended on the part of the Crown that the death of the deceased was caused by poison, and it is further urged that that poison was one of the most deadly known in modern days, viz., aconitine. The prosecution likewise contend that the prisoner administered the poison, and, if a motive were necessary to be assigned, that motive, the prosecution allege, is found in the desire of the prisoner to acquire the £1500 which would be due to Mrs. Lamson upon the lad's death. You have been rightly informed that if no motive was assigned it would be equally murder if the prisoner caused the death. It is very difficult in the present case to dissociate the motive from the crime, but it is also difficult to conceive what can possess a man to take away the life of a poor cripple like the one who died on 3rd December. I should be content, after the attention you have paid to this case, to allow you to form your opinions without further comment, but my duty requires that I should recall your attention to the evidence as it has been given in the course of the trial, as some parts of it may have escaped your attention and some portions may have been misunderstood.

It seems to me, therefore, my bounden duty to occupy your time perhaps for an hour or two longer in pointing out to you

the evidence, so that you may the more readily come to a conclusion. It will not be necessary in so doing to discuss with any great minuteness these matters at any considerable length. You will remember that the deceased was one of a family of five children, one of whom died in 1873 and another in 1879. One of the two daughters married the prisoner, and the other Mr. Chapman. By the death of the brother in 1879 the two sisters and the deceased received each a sum of £800. This brought up the money value of the property belonging to the deceased at the time of his death to about £3000, which would become the property of the prisoner's wife and Mrs. Chapman upon his death. How long the deceased had been a cripple has not been stated, but for the last three years he had been with Mr. Bedbrook at Blenheim House School. He had curvature of the spine, and was unable to use his lower limbs. Deceased was, however, able to wheel himself about, and to use his hands in propelling himself. The young man seems to have pursued the ordinary course of studies—and upon this nothing would turn—and to have amused himself with the rest of the pupils. You have had him described as of cheerful disposition, fond of games, although sometimes he had a fit of melancholy; and he was treated kindly by the other boys, who carried him upstairs and downstairs. Beyond the medical attendance for the slight eruption in 1881, he does not appear to have required or received any other medical assistance. As far as his sisters were concerned, he entertained feelings of the greatest affection towards them, spending a portion of his holidays with one or the other of them. On 3rd December it was not suggested that he took anything provided for him at the school that was calculated to do him harm. He was carried downstairs by the boy Banbury, and he amused himself with the examination papers until the prisoner called. You will have to form your own conclusions as to whether, up to the time the prisoner came, he had taken anything which would account for the symptoms which subsequently came on. What the boy had taken for breakfast, dinner, and tea has been detailed to you, but, as I have stated, it has not been suggested that there was anything with which it was possible for the poison to be co-mixed. When the prisoner called the deceased was carried upstairs by Banbury, and the prisoner greets him

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with, "Well, Percy, old boy, how fat you are looking!" Now, it is necessary that you should understand the size and position of the parties in the room. The room is 16 feet square. There is a table in it, and over it a gas chandelier. The prisoner seated himself, and next to him—not a yard distant—was the deceased. Five or 6 feet from them was Mr. Bedbrook, who remained standing. The sherry was produced, and the prisoner then handed from his bag a Dundee cake and some sweetmeats. The former was* cut by the prisoner with his penknife. Some fifteen minutes had elapsed since the prisoner had entered when, remarking to Mr. Bedbrook, "I did not forget you and your boys. These capsules will be nice for your boys to take nauseous medicines in," he placed on the table from his bag two boxes of capsules. One of the boxes he pushed to Mr. Bedbrook and invited him to try them. The other box he kept in front of himself. No one seems to have seen the prisoner take the capsules out of the box, but the first thing that is noticed was the prisoner filling one with sugar. Having done so, he gave it to the deceased, remarking, "Here, Percy, you are a swell pill-taker." Within five minutes of this the prisoner expressed his intention of leaving, stating that he should lose his train. Mr. Bedbrook accompanied him to the door, and when he returned in two or three minutes the deceased was sitting in the chair where he had been left. It so happened that Mr. Bedbrook had a party of friends at his house that night, and two young ladies went into the room where the deceased was. Mr. Bedbrook left with the ladies, but returned once or twice to the room, at intervals of about five minutes, and between eight and nine o'clock the deceased complained of illness and was carried to bed. Later Mr. Bedbrook found the boy, not in the bedroom, but in the bathroom; he was vomiting very much, and his symptoms were such that Dr. Berry and afterwards Dr. Little were called in. The symptoms became more alarming, and, although morphia was injected, death ensued at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock.

The lad himself describes his symptoms, for he says, "I feel as I felt after taking the quinine pill given to me by my brother-in-law at Shanklin." Mrs. Bowles, the matron at

* Query, "had been."

Blenheim House School, was one of the witnesses who spoke to seeing the deceased in the bathroom. She said she found him vomiting and in great pain. When before the coroner the witness said that the boy was very ill and vomiting, and stated that he had taken a quinine pill, but when she was examined in this Court she said that the boy had told her that his brother-in-law had given him a pill. I desired to have a matter of such importance as this cleared up, and questioned her as to what it was the boy said. She replied that his words were, "My brother-in-law has given me a quinine pill." She asked him if the pill he had at Shanklin made him feel as bad, and he said "No." In reply to other questions which she put to the boy, he said, "My skin feels all drawn up, and my throat is burning." Godward, another witness, also detailed a similar conversation which he had with the deceased, who told him that he had taken a quinine pill which his brother-in-law had given him. Mr. Berry, the surgeon, arrived at the house shortly before nine, and found the deceased in great pain. He complained of the skin of his face being drawn up, and also of a sense of constriction in his throat. He was vomiting a quantity of dark fluid. Mr. Berry asked him if his brother-in-law ever gave him a quinine pill, to which he replied, "Yes, at Shanklin, and it made me ill like this." He asked him if his brother-in-law meant to make him ill, to which he replied, "I cannot say." Several other persons also spoke of the symptoms of the deceased, and of his statement that the prisoner had given him a pill. A post-mortem examination was held. You have heard the evidence of the medical men with regard to that examination. You were told that patches were found indicating recent inflammation, and the prosecution suggested that these patches were the result of the introduction into the stomach of some vegetable alkaloid. On the part of the prisoner, however, it is said that the patches had nothing whatever to do with what was taken into the stomach. The surgeon, it is true, could not say whether the inflammation occurred within two or three days of death, but the evidence, I think, showed that the inflammation which caused the six or eight patches on the stomach must have been an inflammation of such a character that the patient must have suffered

Justice Hawkins

Justice Hawkins

intense pain. The prosecution asks you to believe that it was an irritant poison which caused the poor boy to writhe in agony. Of course, it is true that these appearances may be attributed to other causes than death by poison. They may very well be consistent with other causes, but they are also consistent with the administration of poison.

It was suggested that the curvature had the effect of causing death by pressing on one of the arteries; but this was repudiated by the medical men, because there was no proof that there was any such pressure, and they stated that even if there had been such pressure that would not account for the appearances on the stomach and the contents of the stomach. The stomach, the contents of the stomach, and other parts were submitted to analysis by two eminent men in their profession, Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Dupré. I may say here that Mr. Montagu Williams has had the valuable assistance in this case of as able a man as any that have been called for the prosecution; I refer to Dr. Tidy. It was determined by the Home Secretary that certain things in this case should be submitted to analysis. Mr. Williams, in the course of his speech yesterday, made a very grave complaint that, although a request had been made to the Home Secretary to permit somebody on the part of the prisoner to be present at the analysis, he refused. I am not here either to uphold or condemn the course taken by the Secretary of State. The Solicitor-General has pointed out that convenience was on the side taken by the Home Secretary, while, on the other hand, Mr. Williams declares that it is a piece of "red-tapism." If it is necessary to you to form an opinion upon that subject you will do so, and say whether or not the prisoner has been seriously prejudiced by any information which he has been unable to obtain. Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Dupré conducted the analysis, and according to their evidence they obtained, by Stass's process, from the various articles submitted to them, aconitine. You have had a description of the way in which they arrived at their conclusions, and the quantity of aconitine that was in the stomach of deceased. Mr. Montagu Williams made the remark that in dealing with this point we are embarking on the unknown regions of science. It may be that we have not learned all about this

vegetable poison, but at present it is true that no chemical test can be applied to it. It is for you to say whether it has been established that the extract produced by the analysts is aconitine, and whether poison was the cause of death. Dr. Dupré has stated that he found no trace of quinine in the stomach, and that if any had been administered he should have expected to find it. Justice Hawkins

Mr. Montagu Williams—I should like to remind your lordship that a portion of the vomit was thrown away.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—That is so; some was thrown away and some was preserved. It is suggested, I understand, on the part of the defence, that some quinine might have been in the vomit which was thrown away. As to that matter, you must draw your own conclusions, gentlemen. Mr. Bond, who assisted at the post-mortem, was called, and described the appearances. He denied that there was anything to show that death arose from natural causes.

Then with regard to the evidence as to the prisoner's means. It was stated by the prosecution that he was in great distress, and it was suggested that he had taken away the lad's life by administering aconitine for the purpose of obtaining the £1500 which would come to him upon the death of the boy. Mr. Montagu Williams has said that if the prisoner had the intention to commit the crime he would have waited until he had the boy to himself. I do not intend to reason upon this or to argue it out. It has been replied to by the Solicitor-General, to the effect that it is not certain that that would have been much safer, and that it might have proved the more dangerous course. The Solicitor-General also remarked that you must look in cases of this description for the greatest prudence on the part of persons committing a crime. There is no doubt, as the evidence showed, that the prisoner was in pecuniary difficulties at Bournemouth, and that he gave several cheques on the Wilts and Dorset Bank which were dishonoured upon presentation. He endeavoured to explain in letters that the cheques were given in mistake for others, and that he would set matters right. That, however, he did not do. The prisoner in April of 1880 went to America, and it was while he was there that Mr. Bedbrook received the box of pills which it was alleged was subsequently found in Percy

Justice Hawkins

John's play box. Two pills were found in the box after the boy's death, one of which was said to contain aconitine. Mr. Bedbrook was under the impression that he destroyed the box, and, except for finding a box and two pills in the lad's play-box, he said he should be of the same opinion still.

Mr. Montagu Williams—He never said he destroyed the box.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—He said he threw the box and the pills away, I believe. His words were, "I took it downstairs, and until this box was found I was under the impression that I had thrown it away."

Mr. Montagu Williams—He says he is positive he did not return it.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—He says he is positive he did not see it again. The box contained two pills, one of which was submitted to analysis, and was found to contain a quantity of aconitine. As regards the visit of the prisoner to Wimbledon, you already have had the account, but it will be necessary for me to refer to it again. The prisoner returned from America in October, and what he did from then to the latter end of November we do not know, and probably it would not assist us very much if we did. At the latter end of November he seems to have found out one of the Tullochs, and upon the evidence of one of those gentlemen Mr. Williams has commented with some severity. Whether or not those comments are justified is for you to say. We find the prisoner then writing from Nelson's Hotel, Great Portland Street, to a confectioner's, giving some very exact particulars as to some cake, which he states was for a birthday present to a boy at Harrow. On 1st December the prisoner met William Tulloch, and arranged for a meeting on the following day. The prisoner stated that he was intending to go to Paris in the evening. Tulloch went to the hotel to help him to pack up, and the prisoner then stated that he should go to Wimbledon to see the deceased, and wish him good-bye, and the two journeyed together to Wimbledon. You will remember the account which the prisoner gave of his supposed interview with the deceased and Mr. Bedbrook. Did Tulloch invent this story? For if you trust Mr. Bedbrook and the other witnesses it is absolutely certain that upon this occasion the prisoner never

went to Blenheim House, and did not see the deceased. The Solicitor-General has commented upon this, and has made suggestions to account for the visit, but Mr. Williams' theory is that the prisoner may have met one of the pupils, who told him that the deceased had been undergoing a scholastic examination. Justice Hawkins

We now come to 3rd December. Tulloch and the prisoner were together at the Eyre Arms, St. John's Wood, until six o'clock in the evening. At seven o'clock the prisoner was at the school. The capsules were produced, and the case for the prosecution is that the prisoner selected for the deceased a capsule in which aconitine had been placed; and when you come to couple with this the fact that the prisoner's hands were the last to administer anything to the deceased, and that the symptoms of poisoning exhibited themselves within half an hour of his partaking of the cake, the sweetmeats, and the capsule, the prosecution ask you to say that the prisoner alone administered the aconitine. There is no doubt as to the prisoner endeavouring to purchase this particular description of poison within a very few days of the occurrence. Do you doubt the evidence of Dodds and Betts, the assistants at Messrs. Allen & Hanbury's? They have told you that they referred to the "Medical Directory," and found the prisoner's name there. You will remember that he had left Bournemouth at the early part of the year. With reference to this sale of poisons, and the facilities with which persons may obtain them by representing that they are medical men, I do hope that, after this case is settled, steps will be taken to control the sale. The two positively swear that it was aconitine and not atropia that was sold to the prisoner, and they arrive at this conclusion before any suggestion was made that death was caused by this poison. Upon this question of the purchase of aconitine the assistant to Messrs. Bell & Co., Oxford Street, named Stilling, gave most important evidence. He made up two prescriptions of morphia and atropia, and a few days after, 16th November, the prisoner again appeared and asked for 1 grain of aconitine for internal use. He wrote an order for it, but Mr. Stilling refused to supply it, and referred the prisoner to where he was better known. This, then, is the whole of the evidence as to the prisoner being in possession of aconitine, and the prosecution

Justice Hawkins

contend that he had the means, if he had the opportunity, of giving it to the lad. Further, the prosecution say that he had the opportunity of administering the poison when at Blenheim House on the evening of 3rd December. It has been suggested that the lad took the poison himself—whether purposely or not has not been stated—and it is necessary that I should deal with that part of the case. Up to the time the prisoner called the deceased had been amusing himself in the usual way, and it comes to this, Did the deceased take the poison in the half-hour elapsing between the time the prisoner left and the first seizure of the terrible symptoms which afterwards proved fatal, or did he take it after his tea, between half-past five and seven o'clock, when the prisoner called? If the boy took the poison upstairs, where did he get it from? Did he carry the poison about with him? Had the lad gone into a shop to purchase it his crippled condition would have attracted attention. The very innocence of the things in the room after the prisoner left was one of the strongest circumstances for the purpose of showing that nothing that the boy took in that room when he was left alone could have inflicted this fatal injury.

I have now detailed to you the whole of the circumstances of this case, and now you have two stern questions to answer, Did this lad die from aconitine? and, if he died from the effects of aconitine, was it wilfully administered by the prisoner and under the circumstances which have been suggested? It is idle, as I have said, to suggest that this offence can be less than murder if the poison was administered. In considering this matter you will take the whole of the circumstances into your consideration, and see what conclusion you can arrive at. In considering them I advise you with all my heart to dismiss from your minds all sympathy and commiseration for the poor lad who has met with his end under such melancholy circumstances, and at the same time also dismiss from your minds all sympathy and all consideration you may have for those left behind, and who may be near and dear to the prisoner. You have a solemn duty to perform, but you owe it to your conscience and to public justice to arrive at what you believe an honest and true conclusion from the evidence that has been given before you. If the case has not been made out the prisoner is entitled to be acquitted, but if you in your honest

conscience believe he is guilty, painful as it may be, it will be for you to discharge your duty, to deliver an adverse verdict against the prisoner. Justice Hawkins.

The jury then retired to consider their verdict, the time being six o'clock. They returned into Court at half-past six, when their names were called over.

The Clerk of Arraigns (Mr. Read)—Gentlemen, are you all agreed?

The Foreman—We are.

The Clerk of Arraigns—Do you find the prisoner, George Henry Lamson, guilty or not guilty?

The Foreman—Guilty.

The Clerk of Arraigns—Prisoner at the bar, have you anything to say why the Court should not give you judgment according to law?

The Prisoner (in a firm voice)—Merely to protest my innocence before God.

Mr. Wilson, the Chief Usher, having demanded silence while sentence of death was being passed upon the prisoner at the bar,

Mr. Justice Hawkins (who had assumed the black cap) said—George Henry Lamson, the jury having convicted you of the crime of wilful murder, the law commands me to pass upon you the sentence of death. It would serve no good end were I to recapitulate the harrowing details of your cruel, base, and treacherous crime; nor is it part of my office to admonish you how to meet the dread doom which awaits you. Suffice it to say that I entreat you to prepare to meet Almighty God, and may He pardon you your great sin. The sentence of the Court upon you is that you be taken from hence to the place from whence you came, thence to a lawful place of execution, and that there you be hanged by your neck until you be dead, and, when you are dead, your body buried within the precincts of that prison wherein you were last confined after the passing of this judgment upon you. And may the Lord have mercy upon your soul.

The Chaplain—Amen.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—You are committed into the custody of the Sheriff of Surrey for the execution of this judgment.

The prisoner was then removed.

Justice Hawkins

Mr. Justice Hawkins thanked the jury for the attention and patience they had exhibited in regard to the case.

The Foreman said the jury wished to thank the Sheriffs for their kindness to them and the officers for their attention. At the same time he handed to his lordship a document expressing the opinion of the jury that the law as to the sale of poisons required amendment.

Mr. Justice Hawkins—Gentlemen, I will take care that this is forwarded to the Home Secretary. I firmly believe with you that the time has arrived when some greater restriction should be placed upon the sale of these deadly poisons. I may add that it is with great pleasure that I have observed the way in which the arrangements of the Court have been carried out during this long and protracted sitting. The arrangements deserve the greatest admiration.

This terminated the business of the sessions.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

FIRST REPORT OF THE DEATH OF PERCY JOHN.

(From *Daily Telegraph*, 5th December, 1881.)

Mysterious Death of a Student at Wimbledon.

A correspondent states: It is understood that the police authorities are in possession of some strange details relative to the death of Mr. Percy Malcolm John, aged nineteen, a student at Blenheim House School, Wimbledon, which occurred on Saturday night.

Mr. Malcolm John was the sole surviving heir of considerable property, and it is not known how long his father and mother have been dead. He has two sisters, one of whom is the wife of a Mr. Lamson, but none of them have a settled residence in England.

Mr. Lamson called at the school on Saturday evening and saw his brother-in-law in company with Mr. William Henry Bedbrook, the principal of the establishment. The visit did not last altogether twenty minutes, and soon after Mr. Lamson left the deceased began to feel ill. He said at first that he suffered somewhat in the way he did when he took a quinine pill in the Isle of Wight.

He gradually grew worse, and then commenced to vomit, complaining all the time of a burning sensation at the heart, while his lower limbs were paralysed. Medical aid was called at once. Fortunately Mr. Berry, surgeon, was at Blenheim House School at the time, and he was called upstairs as soon as the unfavourable symptoms began to present themselves. At the same time Dr. Little was sent for, and both gentlemen remained with Mr. Malcolm John until he died in great agony at half-past eleven o'clock the same night.

Before his death the deceased made a statement which has caused grave suspicions.

The coroner for the western district of Surrey, Mr. J. H. Hall, of Kingston-on-Thames, has been communicated with, and will open an inquest on the body of the deceased to-day or to-morrow.

On inquiry having been made of the police at Scotland Yard last night, it was stated that an order had been issued for an arrest, which, however, was subsequently countermanded.

APPENDIX II.

Dr. Lamson's Application for Bail.

(From *Daily Telegraph*, 10th December, 1881.)

At the close of the business at Wandsworth, yesterday, Mr. Gladstone, instructed by Mr. A. W. Mills, applied to Mr. Paget to admit Dr. Lamson, who was in custody on suspicion of poisoning Percy Malcolm John, a student at Blenheim House School, at Wimbledon, to bail.

He said he did so on the grounds that the accused was in a delicate state of health, and that he willingly surrendered himself at Scotland Yard, where there was not any warrant or charge against him. His father, who was at present in Florence, was expected in England, and would be able to provide bail.

Mr. Paget said he did not think it was his duty to admit the accused to bail.

Mr. Gladstone—It is in your discretion, I know.

Mr. Paget—I am quite aware of the power, but it is a charge of extreme gravity, and I don't think it would be consistent with my duty to grant bail.

Mr. Gladstone then called attention to the fact that the accused willingly came over from Paris to surrender.

Mr. Paget said there was no question about that.

Mr. Gladstone observed that if the accused had been anxious to avoid the charge he would have remained in Paris, and it would have taken a long time to put the Extradition Act in force.

Mr. Paget said if the accused had not surrendered it would have afforded strong evidence against himself.

Mr. Gladstone thought the magistrate would admit that by the accused surrendering it was strong evidence in his favour.

Mr. Paget—You must not ask me that question.

In dealing with the application, Mr. Paget said it was always with great reluctance that he refused the application of a prisoner, but he did not think he ought to go beyond the Act of Parliament and incur responsibilities which he ought not to do. He refused bail.

Mr. Gladstone then applied for a copy of the depositions, with a view of making an application in Judges' Chambers for bail.

Mr. Paget said the prisoner was not entitled to a copy of the depositions until they were completed. However, the magistrate read over the whole of the depositions taken before him on the previous day for the information of Mr. Gladstone, who took notes of the important points, particularly of those contained in the medical evidence.

Mr. Gladstone then asked for the actual charge.

Appendix III.

Mr. Paget read out the charge, which was to the effect that he (the accused) did kill and murder Percy Malcolm John. He said it was murder or nothing.

Mr. Gladstone said he was much obliged to the magistrate for the information, and he was sorry for detaining him so long.

APPENDIX III.

Aconita Poisoning and the Wimbledon Mystery.

(From *Daily Telegraph*, 21st December, 1881.)

The demand of the chemist who has charge of the analysis in the case of the death of Percy Malcolm John, at Wimbledon, for a delay in order that he may obtain a licence to experiment on animals, is somewhat remarkable, the more so as a great number of authorities have written upon the action of aconita, traces of which were found in Mr. John's stomach, and a great deal of information as to its effects and its antidotes is readily obtainable. As is well known to every student of the materia medica, aconita is an alkaloid expressed by the formula C33 H43 NO12, obtainable from the root of aconitum napellus (monkshood), where it exists in large quantities—according to Taylor on Poisons, twelve to thirty-six grains in every lb. of root. It is to be found in the leaves and stem of the plant, but the greatest quantity is in the root. Its effects are of so deadly a nature that in the opinion of various authorities from one-third to one-tenth of a grain would prove fatal to human life; even while in the root it is so potent that Dr. Taylor is able to cite a case in which a man died at Bristol in 1853 from having eaten as much of the root in mistake for horse-radish as could be put on the point of a knife. Here, it may at once be remarked, is one of its chief dangers. Its leaf may easily be mistaken for parsley, its root for common horse radish. So great is the chance of this, indeed, that Professor Bentley some time ago thought fit to give in the *Pharmaceutical Journal* the exact points of difference. He mentioned that, while monkshood was conical in form (something like parsnip), tapering perceptibly to a point, and coffee-coloured, or more or less brownish externally, has a merely earthly odour, and tastes at first bitter, though afterwards producing a tingling and burning sensation, horse-radish is but slightly conical at the crown, then cylindrical, or nearly so, and always of the same thickness for some inches; that it has a white or yellowish tinge; and that the odour is especially developed upon scraping, when it is very pungent and irritating—bitter and sweet, according to circumstances. Still, although

it is not difficult to detect monkshood when it and horse-radish are side by side, experience has shown that it may easily be mistaken, and with fatal results. Besides the case already quoted, Dr. Taylor mentions one at Dingwall, in Scotland, in 1856, when three persons died from making the blunder. Dr. Tardieu, in his celebrated work, cites several instances; while Dr. Pereira, in his valuable book on the elements of the materia medica, gives a case which is so interesting as to require at this moment some attention. He states that in December, 1836, one Mr. Prescott, living then in the City Road, planted some horse-radish in his garden. On 5th February following he and his wife and child ate, as they thought, some of the roots thus set. But he died in four hours from the effects of aconite poisoning, and the others narrowly escaped with their lives. The facts are detailed at length, and it will be seen on reference that in each instance the symptoms were exactly the same as those noted in ordinary cases of poisoning by aconita, namely, burning sensation in the stomach, numbness of extremities, dilation of pupil, continued clearness of intellect to the last, great prostration of system, enfeebled action of the heart and pulse, great inclination to vomiting and purging, and a sensation of choking at the throat. Dr. Pereira goes on to say that the leaves of monkshood are also very virulent, his view of the matter being supported by Dr. Taylor, who says that on two or three occasions death had ensued upon their consumption by mistake. These facts are interesting for the reason that, supposing a small quantity of monkshood had by any chance been mixed with any horse-radish on the table at the Wimbledon school, or a leaf of the plant been accidentally mixed with any parsley used for decorating dishes, death from aconita might ensue, and the traces of aconita be found in the stomach of the deceased person.

Aconita is but rarely administered in England in any form but as an ointment. There are cases, notably one given in Naphy's "Medical Therapeutics," in which an American doctor strongly recommends for headache of all kinds an Internal application of this drug, mixed in certain proportions with bromide of potassium; and Dr. E. Seguin used to advocate the use of Duquesnal's aconita in doses of from 1-80th to 1-200th of a grain for tregeminal neuralgia. But it is more frequently as an unguent that it is applied. Then it is rubbed in externally upon the seat of neuralgic pain with, according to many medical men, amongst them Dr. Headland, Dr. A. Turnbull, and Dr. H. W. Fuller, good effects. For internal use the tincture or extract of aconite is generally used—more frequently the tincture, and this is employed by allopaths and homœopaths as well, in different ways, of course. Aconite is itself crystalline in shape and appearance, very bitter to the taste, and produces almost immediately after being used a sense of tingling and burning in the mouth and throat. Its effects are exceedingly rapid, and, according to "Momet's Note Book on Materia Medica," paralyses the sensory nerves, sets up the symptoms before mentioned, reduces the pulse to about 40, and renders it hardly dis-

cernible, lowers the action of the heart, first dilates and then contracts the pupils of the eyes, covers the face of the patient with a careworn expression, and then suddenly kills him. It operates on the heart and its contained ganglia, paralysing them and the muscles of respiration as well as the motor nerves. There are several antidotes, notably an injection of atropia (such as was used in the case of Mr. John), but, according to Momet, more effectively an injection of digitalis, this being a physiological antidote to the action of aconita on the heart, a case being quoted in point. Drs. Taylor, Naphys, Tardieu, Momet, and, indeed, all authorities seem to be agreed upon the symptoms which poisoning by this essence of monkshood brings about, and its use in medicine, while in Beasley's prescriptions the opinions of all are summed up in the following words:—"It is anodyne, sedative, diuretic, and diaphoretic. It produces a sensation of tingling and numbness in the mouth and throat and the parts to which it is applied; it is used to relieve neuralgia and rheumatic pains; it is also occasionally administered in hypertrophy of the heart, dropsy, consumption, gastralgia, tetanus, &c. It is invaluable in all cases of inflammation with high temperature and quick pulse. Administered in the form of a tincture, in doses of one minim to a drachm of water every hour, it soon reduces the heat of the body, produces a gentle diaphoresis, and lowers the action of the heart. It must be administered with great caution, and the state of the pulse ascertained before a dose is repeated. Aconita from the root is not used internally. In the form of tincture it forms one of the most highly-prized homœopathic remedies. Dr. Hahnemann, in his book, especially dwells upon this, lauding its qualities and giving a long list of the symptoms it produces, and that it meets. In his opinion it is so potent that globules soaked in the proportion of 1000 to a drop of saturated spirit or tincture, 300 of these globules weighing only a grain altogether, are of the utmost use when administered only at the rate of two or three at a time; while he claims for a single globule kept in a small glass bottle the power of instantly relieving headache by the simple process of olfaction." Dr. Taylor, too, as an allopath, while classing aconite, aconitine, and aconitia all under the head of cerebro-spinal poisons, testifies to their excellent effects when carefully administered, while an endless array of medical men using them frequently could be easily adduced did space allow. It is noteworthy that originally the medicinal properties of monkshood were discovered in Vienna by Dr. Strock, and that to Dr Fleming, of Birmingham, belongs the credit of first extensively using it here. The letter from the Chemical Laboratory of Guy's Hospital would almost indicate that but little was known of the action of the drug on the human frame; but Dr. Taylor mentions that between the years 1861 and 1873 upwards of nineteen cases of poisoning by aconite in some form or other occurred in the Punjab alone, and the evidence required should not, therefore, be difficult to obtain. It is to be noted meanwhile that the active principle is found in great quantities in the root and leaves of the plant from which it is obtained;

that the root may be easily mistaken for that of horse-radish, and the leaf for parsley; that in cases where it has been taken inadvertently in this raw state the symptoms have been exactly the same as those which have been noted when poisoning by the crystallised form or the tincture has taken place, and that, consequently, in order to die and leave traces of aconite in the stomach is not necessarily to have been poisoned by other than accident. Another fact is established, and it is that, while in some cases death has resulted upon the incautious taking of the tenth of a grain of aconita, there are instances in which a much larger dose has been given without fatal injury, as instance a case cited by Dr. Taylor in which a man recovered after taking upwards of 2½ grains; and that though not frequently used in this country as internal medicine, aconita is given both in America and on the Continent in small quantities for a great number of complaints, amongst them affections of the spine and paralysis of the extremities of the body. One other point will possibly prove of interest in connection with the Wimbledon inquiry, namely, that aconita, though dissolvable in fifty parts of hot and fifty parts of cold water, is more readily soluble in alcohol, and that in such a medium as a glass of sherry might be given either as a medicine or otherwise without much difficulty. For the rest it is a singular fact that as now so at the period when the celebrated Rugeley poisoning case was first under investigation, the action of a poison, at that time only partially understood, was especially matter for consideration, Sir Alexander Cockburn, then chief counsel for the prosecution, himself making a series of experiments in the effects of strychnine upon the lower orders of animals.

APPENDIX IV.

Dr. Lamson's First Appearance at Bow Street.

(From the *Daily Telegraph*, Saturday, 31st December, 1881.)

It would be difficult at any time to attempt to divine why the majority of people who fill police courts when any notable case is under consideration are there, but the throng which struggled for places yesterday morning in the upper court of Bow Street perhaps the most extraordinary that ever attended such a hearing. In the dock sat a medical man charged with a mysterious act of poisoning. It would, therefore, have been easy to understand the presence of a large number of medical practitioners or students. Had half the amateurs of forensic medicine that London possesses been in the Court no one would have had any right to be surprised. The action of aconitia upon the human frame, although never a mystery before, has

been made so strange a thing now that, had every man whose aid could by any possibility be called in to a poisoning case been anxious to get a place in Court, there would have been fair reason for the eagerness displayed. More than this, Dr. Lamson is no ordinary doctor, but a man of some fame and reputation. He has travelled abroad, served in several ambulances, though how he came to obtain the Fifth Class of the Medjidieh for attending sick Servians is not very clear; and he would naturally have a large acquaintance. People who move from capital to capital, and visit various scenes of action —particularly in war time—do vastly enlarge the circle of those they know, and Dr. Lamson's friends might also have been expected to share the space of the Court in great force. Then, again, there is that large and curious class in London, the respectable, independent people who, apparently, have nothing else to do, and who, for the mere sake of killing time, attend weddings, funerals, notorious police examinations, coroners' inquests, and railway accident inquiries. Of them it was fair to expect a certain contingent. So that had the room—none too large, by the way, though the inquiry has been moved thither for better accommodation—been filled with them, the audience would have been what one might fairly have expected. But that was by no means what was to be seen. Every inch of the Court was taken up; but the audience that seemed so eager to hear what took place belonged neither to the medical profession nor to the circle of Dr. Lamson's acquaintances, nor to thoughtful people anxious to be informed as to the action of aconitia, nor to the common class before mentioned; but to the street arab contingent, the waifs and strays of London, and the rough element known as the tag-rag and bobtail. There they were, gathered together for no visible reason, and yet all as intent upon what was happening as though the story unfolded before Sir James Ingham was of the greatest possible interest, and as easily comprehensible as a nursery tale. Youths in fustian, and youths that would have been very glad to have possessed fustian in place of the rags and tatters they wore; men who loaf about the streets and do nothing but ask for alms or drink; odd people on whose appearance "no employment" was as clearly written as though it had been printed in conspicuous letters all over them; these made up the crowd which the policemen in charge of the Court willingly admitted, to the exclusion or discomfort of many persons who had business there, and were obliged to choose between going away or staying to be inconveniently pressed or crowded.

But if the composition of the audience was strange, the appearance and demeanour of the prisoner were stranger still. A man verging upon the middle age, of a sallow complexion, with a moustache and beard that had been allowed of late to run a little wild, dark hair, of slight stature, clothed in a rusty suit of black, and wearing such shoes, socks, and necktie as to indicate a certain impecuniosity—such was the principal actor in the scene at the Court. The dock was evidently not intended for comfort, and was so narrow that a chair,

in order to be properly placed, must needs stand sideways therein; and so it came about that Dr. Lamson was to be seen seated not facing the magistrate at all, but rather looking at the door, with his legs crossed and his feet resting on the bars or on the rails of the dock, leaving his ankles well exposed to the view of all present. The attitude was peculiar, the prisoner's behaviour still more so. He literally paid no attention whatever to what was going on, during the greater part of the time at least. He did not even look at the magistrate or at the prosecuting counsel; was, in fact, spending his time in criticising the crowd more than attending to the witnesses, and might have been, for all the emotion he exhibited, the most unconcerned spectator in the Court. This was the more extraordinary, for the evidence which was given after that which had been tendered at Wandsworth had been gone through, was hardly of the kind to put him strictly at ease. The story of his friend Tulloch, who changed a valueless cheque for him; the deposition of the proprietor of Nelson's Hotel, from whom he borrowed money, and to whom he wrote an extraordinary letter; the information respecting his wanderings and his purchases of sweetmeats, and his account of Mr. John's condition at Wimbledon were none of them precisely the kind of statement which would conduce to placing the prisoner more at his ease; but he paid no attention, and simply contented himself with looking at the throng as though he had no interest whatever in the proceedings. These were interesting, however, to all else in the Court, to the motley throng even, for they threw into the case that element of doubt which is inseparable from all such charges as the one now being investigated. The presence of aconitine in some of the quinine powders was not viewed alike by all who looked intelligently into the matter, the near resemblance between the two drugs being so notable as to suggest the inquiry whether they might not have been used by mistake; while, when the mention of morphia was made, and the injection administered by the doctors who attended Mr. John in his illness dwelt upon, the recollection that this was really the very last drug that should have been exhibited in a case of aconite poisoning was powerfully present to many minds. It now remains, however, for the analysts to justify the assertion made by Mr. Wontner, namely, that Morson's preparation of aconitine has been found in the stomach of the deceased. The fact that animals have died from the effects of that poison in a similar manner to those who ate a portion of the intestines of the deceased proves nothing. The action of aconite in any form is to all practical purposes the same, if the observations of Pereira, Taylor, Naphys, and Tardieu, with many another authority, be of any value, so that the proceedings at the next examination may be looked forward to with great interest. Aconite is a drug much affected by American doctors for many cases of sickness in which it would never be administered by English medical men, and, of course, its presence in the powder and pills may be satisfactorily accounted for. At any rate, the case,

as watched by Mr. Montagu Williams, is at present replete with interest and full of strange possibilities.

George Henry Lamson, M.D., was yesterday morning brought up at Bow Street, before Sir James Ingham, for further examination on the charge of wilfully murdering Percy Malcolm John, his brother-in-law.

Mr. St. John Wontner appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Montagu Williams and Mr. Gladstone (instructed by Mr. A. W. Mills) for the prisoner.

The witnesses examined at Wandsworth Police Court were again called, and severally reaffirmed their depositions, which they formally signed.

Dr. Little, who with Mr. D. W. Berry, surgeon, attended the deceased, wished to add to his evidence that the vomit submitted for analysis was not collected solely from the floor of the water-closet, but principally from a basin into which the deceased had vomited. A portion of the vomit, however, was taken from the water-closet floor and the bath.

Mr. W. R. Dodd, the chemist's assistant who sold the prisoner a quantity of aconitia, having been called,

Mr. Wontner said—I wish to say in regard to this witness that at the time he was called, and indeed up to yesterday, neither he, nor any one else, could have known the nature of the poison, if any, actually taken by the deceased. He, when examined, gave an opinion as to what it was he sold the prisoner, but it is only now that he knows the poison found in the deceased was aconitia. Up to the present he could not have known what poison would be found in deceased's body.

In reference to the evidence of Mr. Charles Oscar Betts, assistant to Messrs. Hanbury, chemists, one of the two who served the prisoner with aconitia,

Mr. Wontner said—I may explain for your worship's information that this witness was examined at the inquest. The two assistants, on reading an account of this case in the papers, were struck with the name, and the following morning they looked in the "Medical Directory." They put their heads together, and, whereas they at first believed it was atropia they sold the prisoner, they subsequently found it was aconitia. They communicated with Mr. Hanbury, their principal, and he communicated with Mr. Hux, the solicitor to the firm, who went at once to Scotland Yard. That is what led to these proceedings. As I said before, no one at the time could have known what sort of poison would be found in deceased's body.

Mr. George Edward Stirling, assistant to Messrs Bell & Co., chemists, of Oxford Street, repeated the evidence given by him on the previous day, that in November he made up a prescription of morphia and atropia for the prisoner. Two other prescriptions were produced

by Mr. Wontner, who asked witness whether they were the same as those made up for the prisoner. Witness replied that they were—they were written by the prisoner. One was signed "G. H. L.," and the other "G. H. Lamson, M.D."

Mr. Wontner, handing up to the magistrate a copy of the "Medical Directory," said—I wish to call your worship's attention to the rather remarkable alleged qualifications of the prisoner. The entry was as follows:—"Lamson, George Henry, 'Hursley,' Poole Road, Bournemouth, Hants—M.D. Paris, 1870; L.R.C.P. Edin. and L.M., 1878 (Paris, Vienna, Pennsylvan. and Lond.); mem. Brit. Med. Assoc. and Bournemouth Med. Assoc.; Med. Ref. Wesl. and several other Assur. Socs.; Sen. Asst. Surg. French Ambulance Corps, 1870-71 (Bronze and Iron Crosses); Surg. Servian Army (British Red Cross), 1876-77 (Gold Cross and Medal); Surg. Maj. Russian Serv., and Chief Surg. Costaforo Eng. Milit. Hosp., Bucharest 1877-78 (Ord. Star of Roumania 4th Class and Ord. Medjidie 5th Class); formerly Externe Surg, Matern. Hosp. Paris."

Mr. Wm. Greenhill Chapman, brother-in-law of the prisoner, in continuation of his evidence of the previous day as to the accused's arrival in town, was asked by Mr. Wontner—

Were you aware the prisoner was coming to London?—I was.

How did you know?—He wrote telling me so.

Have you the letter?—I have not got it here. I may be able to get it in the course of a day or two.

At any rate, it was in consequence of a letter you received from him that you knew he was coming?—Yes.

Mr. Wontner (to the magistrate)—Many of these questions, Sir James, may appear enigmas to you; but the story is this—the prisoner, on the morning he was taken into custody, appeared with his wife at Scotland Yard, stating that he had come there to render any assistance that might be wanted of him. The director considered the circumstances such as to justify him in not allowing the prisoner to go. The answers of this witness are obtained to show whether the prisoner came back from abroad, as he stated, voluntarily—of his own free action.

John Law Tulloch—I am a student of medicine, and live at 14 Alma Square, St. John's Wood. I have known the prisoner for some time. I became acquainted with him after his return from the Russo-Turkish war.

Were you present at his wedding?—I was.

And you visited him at Rotherfield?—Never at Rotherfield.

Prior to the present month, when did you last see him?—I think it was in April of this year, when he went to Bournemouth.

Was he then leaving England?—Yes, for New York.

When did you see him next?—On the Thursday night, the night before the death of Percy John.

Where did you see him?—At our own house.

Your brother William lives with you?—Yes.

Had he been suffering from an abscess in the arm?—An abscess under the arm.

It was late at night when you got home, and you found him there?—Yes, he came home with my brother. He said he was going to Nelson's Hotel, in Great Portland Street. I saw him the following day, about half-past one, at my house.

Did he come by arrangement?—Yes, he arranged to see my brother at half-past one. We left the house together at about half-past three or four.

Was he going away from London?—He told me he was going that night to Paris.

For what purpose did you accompany him?—To see him off. We took the train to Portland Road, and drove down to Nelson's Hotel. He went up to his room and packed his luggage.

What did his luggage consist of?—A leather portmanteau, a rug, and a handbag. We went to Waterloo.

With what view—did he explain?—We went to book the luggage at the left luggage office.

Yes, but with what view?—I understood he was going from Waterloo to Paris.

I suppose he was going by way of Havre?—I don't know.

Did he go to Paris?—No, not that night.

Why?—I don't know. Before leaving the hotel the day before, when packing his bag, he said he would rather not go that night.

He did not go that night?—No, he said he was going down to Wimbledon to see his brother-in-law.

Did you go with him to Wimbledon?—Yes.

And on arriving at Wimbledon what happened?—He told me he was going to the school. I said I would wait for him till he came back. I waited for him at the station for about twenty minutes.

What did he say when he came back?—He said he had been to the school and had seen the boy, who was not very well.

Did he explain why he was not very well?—He said the curvature of the spine was getting worse, and that the boy generally was not in a good state of health.

Did he mention anything about the principal?—Yes, he said Mr. Bedbrook was a director of the South-Western Railway, and that he told him it was as well he did not go to Paris that night, as there was a bad steamer on the service. We returned to town and went to the Adelphi Hotel to leave a rug prisoner had with him. Then we went to the Comedy Theatre.

On leaving the Comedy Theatre, what?—We went over to Stone's, in Panton Street, where prisoner wrote a cheque for £12 10s., which he asked me to get cashed.

Cheque produced.

Is that the cheque?—That is the cheque.

The cheque was on the Bournemouth branch of the Wilts and Dorset Bank.

Did you cash the cheque?—No, I had no money. I went to the Adelphi Hotel, as I thought they knew me well enough to cash it, but they had not sufficient funds. We then drove to the Eyre Arms, St. John's Wood, where Mr. Perrot, the landlord, cashed the cheque for me.

Did you receive the money?—I received the money from Mr. Perrot, in the parlour, and handed it over to the prisoner.

Did he return with you that night?—He left me there, making an appointment to see me at two o'clock the next day, at the Adelphi. I saw him there about three o'clock. He told me overnight he was going by some 2.50 train. He now said he was too late for that; he should start later, and proposed that we should go to the Horse Shoe for lunch. We went to the Horse Shoe.

Whilst at the Horse Shoe I believe you found that a bag you got from Mr. Perrot, which was supposed to contain silver, only contained copper?—Yes.

Did you go to the Eyre Arms to rectify the error?—Yes, we drove at once. There was also an error about a note. I parted with prisoner at the Eyre Arms about six o'clock.

Did he tell you where he was going?—He said he was going to Chichester to see his wife.

And about Paris, did he say anything?—He said he should go on Monday, and would telegraph to me to meet him.

Did you receive any telegram from him?—No.

Or hear from him again till he was in prison?—Never.

A few days after you were at the Eyre Arms did you receive back from Mr. Perrot the cheque he had cashed for you?—Yes.

With the memorandum on it, "no account"?—Yes.

Since he has been in prison have you received this letter from him?—Yes.

The letter was as follows:—

"Clerkenwell, Dec. 13, 1881.

"I have only to-day learned that the cheque you had cashed for me had been returned. I discovered when too late that I had given it on the wrong bank in Bournemouth by mistake, but sent a word there to advise them what had been done, but the events of the past few days stopped everything. I have, however, given the necessary instructions, and the amount will be in your hands very soon. I confess I am very much surprised at the whole affair, and more than anything at your attitude towards, or should I better say, against me, which I am pained and hurt at after your words of a few days ago. For obvious reasons any further explanations must be deferred to a future period.—I am, yours, &c.,

"G. H. Lamson.

"J. L. Tulloch, Esq."

Mr. Montagu Williams—I have no questions to ask.

Appendix IV.

On his depositions being read over, witness explained that he did not actually receive back the cheque. It was then at Scotland Yard, and he received Inspector Moore's receipt for it.

Mr. James Crichton Nelson—I am proprietor of Nelson's Hotel, Great Portland Street.

I believe in the latter part of November last, and up to 3rd December, prisoner was staying at your hotel?—He was.

His account was rendered several times, and not paid?—Yes, on two or three occasions.

Are these the bills (produced)?—Yes, they are; but there may be some charges in addition.

He is charged for a bedroom each day. Do you know whether he slept at your hotel every day?—I know he did so several times, and he would be charged for the bed whether he slept there or not.

Did you see him on Friday, 2nd December?—Yes, in the evening.

And he left on that evening, taking a portion of his luggage?—Yes, he took a bag and one portmanteau, leaving two portmanteaus behind.

Did he leave without paying his bill?—Yes.

Did you see him again?—No, he did not return.

Did you expect him?—Yes, he said he would be back in about an hour or an hour and a half.

But he did not come?—No, and I did not see him again until he was in custody.

While he was staying in your hotel did you receive these two letters from him?—Yes, I did.

Mr. Wontner—These are the letters.

Copy of letter from prisoner to landlord of Nelson's Hotel (original written in pencil)—

"Saturday Morning, 26, 11, 81.

"Dear Sir,—I have been sent for to go, with as little delay as possible, to the place where my wife is now staying, as my little girl is quite ill, and my wife is terribly anxious about the child, and wishes, besides, to change her quarters. She will come to London for a short time, until I leave for the Continent myself. As I am therefore very anxious to yield to her wishes, and as it would render it impossible for me to bring her back with me, if I went into the city to procure the sum I require for the journey on her account, &c., up to the present time, I venture to ask if you would be good enough to let me have £5 until my return with her in the evening (to-day). I should be very sorry to have to put you to any inconvenience but I feel certain you will do this for me, knowing my parents, &c. If I do not catch the 10.30 train from Victoria I cannot return to-day, as it is important that I should. I should require the sitting room (No. 29), which my mother had while here, and the bedroom I now occupy would be naturally sufficient for my wife and self, but if she wishes the child to come here as well, I should require

another room for her and the nurse. I shall ask you to kindly see that a large trunk be taken out of the left baggage-room at Euston Station, and brought here and kept in a safe place, as it contains a quantity of silver plate and household valuables, with a considerable sum. Mrs. Lamson wishes to have the plate, &c., and some music contained in the same trunk for her own use. Excuse the very bad and illegible manner I have written this note, but my eyesight is very bad by artificial light, and I have mislaid my glasses. Apologising for venturing to ask the favour I seek from you, I am, Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

"GEO. H. LAMSON.

"Room 30."

Mr. Wontner—I believe that request you declined?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Wontner—The next letter is as follows:—

Copy of note from Dr. Lamson to housekeeper, or any person in charge of office.

"Mr. Lamson (from No. 30) begs that someone may be sent to Mr. Buszard's, confectioner, 91 Oxford Str., two or three doors from the Pantheon, going towards Oxford Circus, for the following articles procured and brought here for Dr. Lamson, viz.: one Dundee cake, 3s. size; 2 lbs. of crystallised fruits, assorted. In these fruits the following fruit to be left out: (cherries and limes) and nuts—only the green or yellow. The following to be sent in these fruits: apricots (glacé, not crystallised), greengages (glacé, and only two or three of them), some small yellow plum cherries, 'brochettes,' knots, and 'lunettes,' a large proportion of the three last articles, and the 2 lb., as ordered, is desired. Dr. Lamson would suggest that the above order be shown to the attendant at Buszard's, as the messenger could hardly be expected to remember the whole order as above given. Dr. Lamson begs there may be no delay in sending for these articles, as he wishes to take them with him to Harrow for a birthday gift; and he particularly wishes to start early, so as to be back soon to prepare for leaving for the Continent in the evening. As Dr. Lamson does not know the price of the articles he has ordered, he begs they may be paid for, and he will settle when he comes down to breakfast.—Room 30, Nelson's Portland Hotel, Nov. 29, 1881."

Were the articles described in that letter procured for him?—They were not sent for The housekeeper had the note, as I was not there.

Mr. Wontner—This letter doubtless referred to the fruit and the cake afterwards taken down to Mr. Bedbrook's by the prisoner.

Mr. Williams did not cross-examine the witness.

William Amour—I am head porter at Nelson's Hotel.

You remember the prisoner staying there—Mr. Lamson?—Yes, sir.

Had his father and mother stayed there before?—Yes.

Do you remember his leaving on 2nd December?—Yes.

Did you assist in packing his luggage?—Yes, I had packed some of his portmanteaus before he packed the one that he took with him.

Do you remember seeing a bottle on the mantelpiece in his bedroom?—Yes.

How was it labelled?—"Poison."

What did you do with the bottle?—I put it in the portmanteau which prisoner took away with him.

Mr. Wontner—Just to clear up this point, I may say that the existence of this bottle was mentioned before we had any idea we should be able to prove the purchase of poison. Probably this was one of the bottles with the injection. That would naturally be labelled "Poison."

(To witness)—Did you know prisoner was going away for good, or did you expect him back?—He said he would come back the same night.

No questions were asked in cross-examination.

Ferdinand Perrot—I am brother of the proprietor of the Eyre Arms, St. John's Wood. Mr. Tulloch is a customer of ours. He comes in very often.

On the night of 2nd December did you cash the cheque produced for Mr. Tulloch?—No, it was Saturday morning.

Oh! in the early morning, after midnight, I suppose?—Yes, about twenty minutes past twelve.

Was Mr. Tulloch alone?—No, there was somebody with him whom I did not know, and could not recognise if I saw him.

Did you give change?—Yes, what I believed to be £12 10s. On the following Wednesday it was returned marked, "No account," and my brother handed it to Inspector Moore, of Scotland Yard.

Mr. Williams asked no questions.

Sidney Harbert—I am cashier at the American Exchange, 449 Strand.

I believe prisoner is a subscriber?—I think not now.

Do you remember seeing him recently, about 28th November?—Yes, he brought a cheque and asked me to cash it; but, being after business hours, and our general manager, Mr. Gillig, being absent, I told him I could not do it.

Did he present a cheque to you?—Yes, for £15. (Cheque produced.) I think it was a cheque of that colour. I know perfectly well that it was on the Wilts and Dorset Bank. Prisoner told me he was the son of Dr. Lamson, and was staying at Nelson's Hotel.

A label marked "capsules" was handed to witness.

I remember a parcel coming to the agency, addressed to the prisoner. It had been broken in coming through the post, so that I could see the contents.

What became of the parcel?—I do not know. In the ordinary course it would be given to the person to whom it was addressed.

Some capsules were handed to witness.

Is that the sort of thing you saw in the parcel?—Yes.

Mr. Wontner explained that the capsules were forwarded by a firm in New York, and that the parcel bore the American stamp and postmark.

Mr. Montagu Williams did not cross-examine the witness.

William Tulloch—I live at 14 Alma Square, St. John's Wood, and am acquainted with the prisoner. On the 1st of the present month I met him in the city. I was suffering from an abscess in the arm at the time, and he accompanied me home for the purpose of operating upon it.

Do you remember seeing a cake and some crystallised fruits?—Yes; he brought them the following day when he came to dinner.

Did he bring a Madeira cake and some crystallised fruits?—He brought a cake and some fruits.

I believe you partook of them?—Yes.

When he left you did he say where he was going?—I understood he was going to Wimbledon to see his brother-in-law.

Did you know the brother-in-law?—I only knew he was called Percy.

Prisoner took the cake and fruit away with him?—Yes.

The witness was not cross-examined.

George Lamb—I am a railway porter at Wimbledon station of the South-Western Railway. I was on duty there on the evening of Saturday, 3rd December.

Shortly before the departure of the 6.40 train did you see a gentleman there?—We have no such train.

Well, the 7.20 train?—Yes, I did see a gentleman.

Do you see him here now?—Yes; that is the man there (pointing to prisoner).

Did you see him come on to the platform and enter a first-class carriage?—Yes.

Did he speak to you?—Yes; he asked if that was a Waterloo train, and I told him it was. He got into the train and sat for about a minute. He then asked when the train would start. I looked at the clock and said, "in two minutes." He asked if there was time to change carriages. I said, "Yes," and I opened the door for him. He got out and went into another carriage. Presently he called me and asked if I could send to Blenheim House. I said, "Yes," and he then told me he wanted a message taken. He put 4s. 6d. into an envelope, and, having written something on the inside, closed it. I took the packet to Blenheim House.

This witness was not cross-examined.

Mr. Wontner—I do not propose to go any further to-day.

Sir J. Ingham—I am thoroughly at your service. Make such arrangements as will be convenient to both parties for going on with the case.

Mr. Wontner—I will explain exactly how we stand. Mr. Bedbrook will have to be recalled in regard to several points, and there are four or five witnesses from his establishment who have also to be called.

Their evidence will take an hour or an hour and a half. Then there are the two analysts to be called. Their evidence will necessarily take some time. The stomach, the urine, the vomit, and all the matters mentioned in Dr. Bond's evidence as being handed by him to Mr. Dupré and Dr. Stevenson have been analysed, and they have been found to contain unmistakable traces of aconite. I believe the analysts will be able to tell you that the result of the analysis shows it was Morson's preparation of aconite that was used. (According to the witness Dodds it was Morson's preparation that he sold to the prisoner.) The analysts have given portions of the vomit and intestines of the deceased to animals, with the result that the animals were killed. They also administered to animals portions of Morson's preparation procured by themselves, and with the same result. Since then a box containing two pills has been found in the deceased's box, and a packet of powders has also been found in the deceased's room. They had apparently been numbered from one to twenty, but the first six were missing. When analysed it was found that the powders numbered down to fifteen were perfectly pure quinine powders, similar to those sold by Mr. Littlefield in the Isle of Wight to the prisoner in October last, but on reaching the powder No. 16 that was found to contain half a grain of aconite. No. 17 contained a quarter of a grain of aconite; No. 18 is pure. No. 19 contains another quarter of a grain of aconite, and No. 20 again is pure quinine. Those powders were found in deceased's box, and the boys at the school will show that they were sometimes left lying about on the mantelpiece, and if any boy had taken, say, No. 16, he would probably have been dead now, like the unfortunate deceased. One of the pills in the box of pills referred to also contained a fatal dose of aconite, and that box will be spoken to as having been sent from America to the prisoner in April last. I hope that at the next hearing we shall be able to clear up all the evidence except that from the Isle of Wight and that of the analysts.

The prisoner was then further remanded until Monday.

APPENDIX V.

English and American Affidavits.

(From the *Daily Telegraph*, Saturday, 15th April, 1882.)

Yesterday, a little after noon, the American evidence arrived in London by the mail bringing letters from the United States, per "Arizona." What the tenor of their affidavits was will be seen

from the summary subjoined. So soon as the documents were received, Mr. A. H. Mills, the solicitor for G. H. Lamson, had them dealt with, and such was the expedition used by him that early in the afternoon four copies had been sent to the Home Office, a few more affidavits taken in England being in course of preparation for presentation to-day. Sir William Harcourt and Sir A. Liddell are both away from the Home Office and do not return till to-day. The convict Lamson was visited yesterday by his solicitor. He seems hopeful of a reprieve. His health is much better than it has been at any time since his conviction, but his memory is still said to be very bad. The convict also received a visit from his wife.

The following letter has been sent by the solicitor for Lamson, Mr. A. H. Mills, to the Home Office:—

6 South Square, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.
April 14, 1882.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit to you herewith ten duly authenti cated affidavits, by persons whose names and descriptions are enumerated on the other side, being the instruments which have arrived up to this time, from the United States, of testimony from that country in support of the allegations laid before you as to the unsoundness of mind of Dr. G. H. Lamson, now under sentence of death for murder.

All diligence has been used in collecting and forwarding this evidence, but it is my duty to point out to you that much of the testimony from America, now on its way here, cannot reach England until after the 18th instant, and therefore the object of the respite granted on the 1st instant cannot possibly be attained within the time limited.

In these circumstances I venture to hope that a further respite may be granted in order that the testimony already sworn and despatched may be laid before you in justification of the plea made on behalf of the condemned.

I may add that much strong additional evidence here in England has been offered by persons who were acquainted with the prisoner, and this is being embodied in sworn declarations for submission to you.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. W. Mills.

The Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department, S.W.

List of Enclosures.

Charles H. Vonklein, Hamilton, U.S., physician.
Irving M'Elroy, Christchurch, U.S., clergyman.
Kate P. M'Elroy, Christchurch, U.S., wife of last named.
O. L. Barbour, Saratoga Springs, counsel-in-law.
R. Kate Barbour, Saratoga Springs, spinster.
Florence M. Schuyler, Saratoga Springs, sister of last named.

Appendix V.

W. H. Hall, Saratoga Springs, physician.
G. P. Williams, New York, spinster.
G. S. Winston, New York, doctor of medicine.
J. L. Winston, New York, wife of last named.

Besides the American affidavits, there are several from persons in England who knew Lamson at Bournemouth and other places.

Kate George Lamson, wife of the prisoner, states that for more than a year her fears and anxieties have been greatly and increasingly aroused for the soundness of her husband's mind. His affairs ran into confusion through his inability to transact business or carry on his life with fixedness of purpose or continuity of thought. A word or suggestion would set his fertile fancy at work, and raise up images and scenes utterly unreal and incredible. On one occasion he had purchased a large fur rug. When the brother of the person from whom he bought it visited the house and saw the rug and remarked upon it, Lamson at once said, "Yes, it is made up of opossums; skins of animals every one of which I shot." The fears entertained by Mrs. Lamson she had told to Dr. Snow, of Bournemouth, and to Dr. Miller, of Upper Norwood, and others. On one occasion Lamson left his bed in the night, went downstairs, and when his wife followed she found him playing aimlessly with a poker in a room below, utterly unable to account for his conduct.

In his affidavit Dr. J. G. Sinclair Coghill, physician to the Royal National Hospital for Consumption at Ventnor, says—"Dr. Lamson was personally known to me, and as far back as October, 1880, I had occasion to make observations of certain peculiarities of conduct, speech, and appearance, which impressed me with the conviction that he was then in the habit of taking large doses of some preparation of opium. This opinion I expressed strongly to Dr. J. W. Williamson, of this place, who was shortly afterwards in a position to confirm this opinion from information as to his habits from Lamson himself. As I was for nearly eight years in an official position in China, as municipal medical officer and consulting physician to the General Hospital there, I had unusual opportunities for becoming familiar professionally with all the symptoms and effects of the habit of opium smoking or eating, and I have no hesitation in saying that any one in the habit of using opium to the extent that Lamson did would be incapable of ordinary self-control, and would have his moral senses and powers of judgment deteriorated to a degree rendering him incapable of resisting morbid impulses."

Charles Taylor, of 14 Sidney Villas, Westbourne, Bournemouth, states that he was coachman to Lamson from October, 1880, until the latter left Bournemouth in 1881. Taylor states that immediately after entering Lamson's service he found he was out of his senses. He was (Taylor goes on to say) subject to the most childish fears and fancies, and was quite unable to talk reasonably. He practically had no memory at all. He frequently would give me orders to be ready

with the brougham, and immediately afterwards declare he had not done so. If he had to attend a patient he frequently did not go, but would tell me he had just been. His whole appearance clearly showed that he was a lunatic. One morning he came out of the house and said to me, 'Taylor, I shall summon you. I am an officer of the Army, and I have had threatening letters that they are coming here to kill me.' This was said earnestly and in anger. I tried to quiet Lamson, and he made me promise to carry a pistol for his protection. This, of course, I did not do. On another morning, between ten and eleven o'clock, my master fired a loaded revolver out of the second floor window, and afterwards could not give any reason for having done so. My master, who was a very abstemious man, frequently sent for me to see him in his study, and when I got there I generally found he had either forgotten he had sent for me or else would sit me down and talk nonsense to me as long as I would listen to him. On another occasion my master told every one in the house and the police that during the night he had been called up to attend a patient at an address which he could not find, and on his returning home was attacked by the two men who had called him up, but that he had eluded them by running away. This and other similar hallucinations were common to him. I could give innumerable instances of the insane conduct, appearance, and speech of Mr. Lamson, for in the kitchen we used to talk them over. On more than one occasion I told my fellow servants that Mr. Lamson ought to be in a lunatic asylum, and I told them that I believed before six months he would be in one. Mr. Lamson never behaved or acted like a master towards us servants, and we paid little attention to what he said or did. I have not the slightest doubt in the world that while I was in the service of Lamson he was insane, and totally irresponsible for his actions."

John Law Tulloch, a medical student, states that he had known Mr. Lamson intimately since the year 1879. He adds—"For the past eighteen months or thereabouts I have noticed a very great change in his appearance, manner, and demeanour. More particularly did I notice this when I visited him at his house at Bournemouth, in 1881. The visit referred to extended over a month, during which time I had daily, almost hourly, opportunities of observing his character and the condition of his mind. He was restless, nervous, and appeared to labour under insane delusions; for instance, that he had been shot through the body, and in the head, and his memory seemed much affected. Lamson said most unaccountable things, and was not treated by the servants in his house as a sane man. From April 5, 1881, to December 1, 1881, I did not see or hear from him, but on the last mentioned day—two days before the death of Percy Malcolm John—I saw him for a few minutes at my brother's house. The next day (Friday) about mid-day I again saw him, and we proceeded together to Wimbledon, as detailed in the evidence given by me at the trial,

and I was in Lamson's company until midnight, and on the following day (Saturday) was in his company till about six o'clock in the evening. On the last-mentioned day Mr. Lamson was with me at the Eyre Arms, St. John's Wood, and so strangely did he act, and so much comment did his appearance excite amongst my friends (to whom he was a stranger), that one of them (an eminent portrait painter) asked me, 'Who is your friend? Has he just escaped from a lunatic asylum?' In my opinion and belief Mr. Lamson used narcotics so inordinately that for a long time past, and particularly on the day of the death of Percy Malcolm John and the preceding days on which I saw him, he was incapable of ordinary self-control, and that his moral senses and power of judgment were so deteriorated as to render him incapable of resisting morbid impulses."

Mr. Frank Arthur Philips, formerly of Rouse's Point, county of New York, and now of Cobden Street, Bow, London, in his affidavit states that he first became acquainted with Lamson in April, 1881, and from that until the June following spent much of his time in Lamson's company. During all this period Mr. Lamson was, in his opinion, undoubtedly of unsound mind. This was not only Mr. Philips' own opinion, but that of all persons who came in contact with him. His manner was invariably strange, and his conversation betrayed his unsoundness of mind. He took drugs frequently, internally and subcutaneously, at times as often as every hour. "On one occasion," says Mr. Philips, "I found Lamson in the middle of the street, with no coat on, his left arm bared, a hypodermic syringe in one hand, and the thumb of the other pressing on the place where the injection had been made. While Lamson was staying at Rouse's Point his peculiarities were a common and frequent subject of discussion to the people there."

Mr. Redcliffe, Radcliffe Hall, of Welbeck Street, London, had known Mr. Lamson since June, 1880. In February, 1881, Lamson made a most circumstantial communication in reference to the antecedents of Mrs. Redcliffe, which had since been ascertained to be a hallucination. This communication he afterwards, by request, embodied in writing; but when subsequently spoken to about it, he was able to remember nothing whatever concerning it. Lamson seemed to be constantly under the most extraordinary and irrational hallucinations. At one time he said he had come over from America to Paris in a balloon, and intended returning in the same fashion. On another occasion he declared he was such an excellent diver that he could remain under water for twenty-five minutes. These peculiarities were the subject of common remark in Bournemouth.

William Joseph Warren, of Merick House, Bournemouth, used to meet Lamson daily from June, 1880, to April, 1881. From the first he noticed a striking peculiarity about his face. His eyes had a fitful and nervous look, as if he were in fear of phantom, and he seemed perpetually making an effort to appear sane. His walk, too, was

peculiar. He would frequently go along quickly, then suddenly stop, turn back, and branch off in some other direction, crossing the road backwards and forwards without rhyme or reason. Not only so, but he would constantly make the wildest and most outrageously improbable statements with an apparent air of sincerity.

William Arthur Marshall, of Bournemouth, had been intimately acquainted with Lamson since 1879, and the first time he saw him he observed his manner to be peculiar, and subsequently he became convinced that his mind was affected. He was subject to the most extraordinary delusions and fears.

John Mann Williamson, M.D., practising at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, knew Lamson during the last six years. In August, 1881, Lamson was suffering from emaciation and peculiar nervous symptoms. On both arms were found a number of abscesses, due to the abuse of the hypodermic syringe. Dr. Williamson had no doubt in his own mind that for a long time Lamson had been in the habit of drugging himself with considerable quantities of morphia, and urged him to abandon it, a practice which was rapidly undermining his mental powers.

Ernest Juch, journalist, of New Broad Street, London, had met Lamson in New York in 1881, and was at once struck with the peculiarity of his appearance. Lamson admitted to him that his whole existence depended upon the constant use of morphia, which he used to such an extent, by his own confession, as to convince Mr. Juch of his insanity. All his actions tended to show that he was not a man in his right mind, nor responsible for his actions. Even the waiters and officials at the hotel speak of him as a madman. Mr. Juch had always found him kindly disposed to every one.

Arthur Joseph Salter, Kentish Town Road, London, had met Lamson about once a week during his residence at Bournemouth, and from the first suspected him to be insane. His eyes betrayed a look of wildness, and the expression of his face was that of a man whose reason was affected. His actions and movements could not fail to attract attention, although his one effort seemed to be to cloak his infirmity.

Dr. Millar, of Upper Norwood, was called in professionally to prescribe for Lamson in July, 1881, when he found him in a most excited state of mind, suffering from the effects of excessive subcutaneous injections of morphia and atropia, which he had injected in enormous quantities. Dr. Millar expresses the opinion that these drugs, taken in such quantities, would gradually ruin the powers of the nervous system, as well as the powers of self-control. He mentions a case of insanity brought on by the excessive use of alcohol and opium. The patient gradually recovered after their disuse.

Ellen Pocock, of Cranbrook, Woolston, near Southampton, had known Lamson for ten years; began to observe peculiarities of manner in November, 1881, when he was in a dreamy, wandering, nervous, and restless condition. He laboured under the most apparent delusions. For example, he was under the impression that he had a friend, Arkwright, from whom he was always expecting presents. This friend

is believed to be a myth. He was from time to time under the impression that he had been stopped and assaulted by robbers.

Lydia Humphreys, of Sutton, relates how she went with an invalid sister to Bournemouth, that they went to consult Dr. Lamson, but that he asked no questions about the condition of the patient. He subsequently called to examine her chest, but he did not do so, and behaved in a strangely eccentric manner all through. Afterwards, when she told him that her sister had coughed up blood, Lamson only laughed in her face. She was of opinion that Lamson was not then in his right mind.

Charles H. Nichols, medical superintendent of the Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane, in New York, states that he is official custodian of the records, books, and papers of that asylum, and supplied extracts in reference to relatives of Lamson who had been inmates of that asylum. The first mentioned is Lamson's aunt, Caroline O. M'Gregor, who was a native of England, but resided in New York. She was supported in the asylum by her husband, and the following particulars are given of her case:—Age, thirty-one; original disposition and intellect, both good; number of children, 4; degree of education, good; habits of life, correct; date of admission, February 13, 1854; date of discharge, April 17, 1857; time in the asylum, three years two months; age at attack, thirty-one; duration of attack, two months; class in regard to duration, acute; apparent or alleged causes of disorder, predisposing, not hereditary; form of mental disorder, puerperal mania; particular propensities and hallucinations, suspects servants of stealing and drinking wine, destroyed clothes, incoherent, sleepless, taking little food, mind weak and confused, much distressed; she died in the asylum, the supposed cause of death being phthisis. Lucretia A. Lamson, grandmother of the prisoner, was also an inmate of the Bloomingdale Asylum. She was a native of New York, and seventy-six years of age. The following particulars are given:—Temperament, nervous; original disposition and intellect, good; number of children, three; degree of education, common English; habits of life, exemplary; date of admission, September 7, 1863; date of discharge, October 8, 1867; time in the asylum, four years, one month, one day; age at attack, seventy; duration of attack, six years; class in regard to duration, chronic; apparent or alleged causes of disorder, predisposing; hereditary, daughter (Mrs. M'Gregor) died in this asylum; form of mental disorder, senile dementia; particular propensities and hallucinations, infirmity of age, restless, wants to go home, wanders away and gets lost. She died in the asylum. William B. Orme was the grand-uncle of Lamson. He was a native of England, but resided at Brooklyn, New York. By whom supported, son; aged eighty-seven; temperament, nervous; original disposition and intellect, good; number of children, one; occupation, sea captain (on the sea forty years); degree of education, good English; habits of life, correct; date of admission, July 16, 1864; date of discharge, September 8,

1864; time in the asylum, one month twenty-three days; age at attack, eighty; duration of attack, two years; class in regard to duration, chronic; apparent or alleged causes of disorder, predisposing; hereditary, sister (Mrs. O. Lamson) and niece (Mrs. M'Gregor) were in this asylum; form of mental disorder, dementia; particular propensities and hallucinations, general and complete dementia. He also died in the asylum, the supposed cause of death being erysipelas and mortification of foot.

Charles H. Vonklein, physician and surgeon, resident in Hamilton, county of Butler, U.S., states that in the years 1877 and 1878 he was a surgeon in the Russian Army, and for a period of about six months he was in Bucharest, in Roumania, in a hospital which was under the direction and control of Lamson, under the auspices of the Red Cross Association of the city of London. During this period he became and was well acquainted with Lamson, who was also a physician and surgeon, having control of the hospital. By reason of their connection with the said hospital, his knowledge of Lamson was most complete. During that time he met and conversed with him almost every day, and frequently many times during the same day. During all this time, and in almost every case, and without regard to the character of the disease or injury to the patient, and in all cases when there was an increase of the temperature or pulse of the patient, and especially when the pulse was abnormal, Lamson seemed possessed of a mania for the administration to the sufferer of aconitine. The action and conduct of Lamson in the administration of this poisonous drug was unwarranted and reckless. Dr. Vonklein frequently called his attention to the great danger to which he subjected patients, and that Lamson's manner on such occasions was vague and incoherent. He laughed and ridiculed these fears. Dr. Vonklein further states that while he was at this hospital he was afflicted with neuralgia, and called upon Lamson to treat him in a professional capacity. But he administered such quantities of aconitine that the patient became alarmed, and spoke about it to Lamson, who only laughed at him; and upon his repeating his fears to Lamson concerning his treatment, their friendly relations were for a time disturbed. Dr. Vonklein also states that Dr. Lamson made habitual and frightful use in his practice of the poisonous drug mentioned. To such an extent did this proceed that it not only became the hobby of Lamson's mind, but he used it both in season and out of season. It seemed to be his favourite and only remedy for all diseases and injuries, and so continued to be until his recall to England. Dr. Vonklein says he has not met Lamson since that time, nor did he know of his whereabouts until a few days ago, when, through the agency of the Press, he learned of his conviction and sentence to death. The doctor adds, from his knowledge of Lamson, he has ever been apprehensive that some dreadful calamity would happen in the practice of his profession like that of which he stands convicted. Dr. Vonklein says that at the time of his acquaintance with Lamson he unhesitatingly concluded

that he was of unsound mind, and wholly irresponsible for his conduct. He further states that now, when his recollection is refreshed and his attention directed to his action and conduct during the time he associated with him, he entertains no doubt but that Lamson, at the time of the commission of the alleged homicide, was insane, and in no wise legally responsible for his acts.

Irving M'Ilroy, rector of Christ Church, Rouse's Point, New York State, says—"I have known Dr. Lamson for fourteen or fifteen years. In the summer of 1877, after his return from the Turko-Servian campaign, he spent several months with me. One evening he asked me to administer to him a dose of morphine hypodermically, saying that he had learned to like it in Servia. I did so. He left me in July, and I did not again see him until April, 1881, when I met him at Rouse's Point as he came off the train, and I was very much struck with his altered appearance. His face was flushed, his eyes were dull and heavy, and his walk like that of a man either very weak or partially intoxicated. This was his normal condition during the whole time he was with us. He complained constantly of pain in the head, and dizziness, and his inability to sleep at night. For a short time after reaching my home he gained in flesh and his appearance improved. The improvement did not last. The flushed face returned, and he spent the greater portion of his time when in the house upon the lounge, either dosing, or attempting to read, or conversing. He would begin to speak, and before finishing the subject, or even sentence, he would fall asleep, and when spoken to quickly would arouse himself with no remembrance of what he had been talking about. Frequently during the day he would ask for a lamp, and go to his room, and on his return the pupils of his eyes would be very much dilated, and his whole appearance that of a man under the influence of stimulants. He frequently talked of the pain and dizziness in his head, which he attributed to weariness and overwork, and then asked me if it would end in insanity, for he was afraid that it would. The doctors whom he had consulted had told him they could not help him. On April 27 I took a hypodermic syringe of his to Albany to be repaired, but it could not be done. On April 29 I spent the day with him in Montreal, showed him where he could get the syringe repaired, and took him to a drug store, where he wrote a prescription for a morphine mixture, the proportions being so large as to give the clerk cause to question him as to the use he intended to make of it, and his knowledge of the medicine. He answered the clerk, telling him that he was a physician, that he would find his name in the "Medical Directory," and that he intended the medicine for his own use. While returning he told me that he used the morphine to inject under the skin to relieve the pain in his lung and to counteract sleeplessness. After reaching home I went with him to his room, saw him warm the preparation over the lamp, and inject a portion of it under the skin. In a few moments I noticed the symptoms which had so often alarmed us, namely, dilated pupils,

flushed face, incoherence of speech, a confusion of ideas, and a drowsy uncertainty in movement that resembled intoxication. Afterwards, in speaking of the mixture which he had used and its effects, I asked him to explain to me its nature and action, so that in case he got an overdose I might know what to do. He told me that he used atropine, but preferred aconitine, though he was unable to purchase aconitine in that section of the country. He was under the effect of the morphine mixture almost constantly while with us. He passed most of his time in the house lying upon the lounge in the sitting-room, either sleeping or dosing over a book. He seldom retired before twelve or one o'clock, and on one occasion my wife was not able to arouse him from the lounge until four o'clock in the morning. He seldom arose before noon; I frequently went into his room to awaken him, and found him on his bed, littered up with books, clothes, papers, surgical instruments, bottles of medicine, and on a stand by his bedside a burning lamp, a hypodermic syringe, and a bottle of morphine mixture. On more than one occasion I ejected from the syringe drops of the solution, and told him that he had been using the syringe again. He invariably denied it. On May 30 Dr. Lamson went with me to Potsdam, and my friends there, noticing his mental condition, asked me the cause of it. I was obliged to explain it by referring to his use of morphine. While there he purchased a quantity from the druggist. After his departure from my house I found the bottle which he had purchased in Potsdam with some of the mixture in it, and packed it among his books, letters, papers, &c., in a black box which I was sending to him to be forwarded to England. He avoided company calling at the house, and made very few friends in the town. His appearance was such as to give rise to a common report in the town that he was crazy, which, from my observation and knowledge of his mental condition, I was unable to contradict, as I then believed, and still believe, it to be true. In my judgment the doctor's mind had been thoroughly unsettled by his constant use of the drugs, and I was under the continual apprehension lest he might administer an overdose to himself; so I never went to bed myself until I was satisfied that he was quiet in his own bed, and I never left the house without asking my wife to watch him as far as she could. During this time my wife was sick, and I refused to allow Dr. Lamson to prescribe for her, thinking his judgment no longer sound, and that he was not morally responsible for whatever might result from his administration of medicines. I charged my wife not to allow him to administer medicines to any of the family lest he should give them the same medicines and in the same quantity as he was using himself, which would prove in any other case than his own fatal. My experience with him showed me that he had lost all idea of truth, and that he had lost his strength of will power. I frequently strove to break him of the habit of using morphine, and he always promised me that he would abandon it, but would forget his promise in a few moments. All the time he was with us he was complaining of the pain and dizzi-

ness of the head, and frequently asked my wife and sister to rub his head for him to relieve it, which they did. The doctor remained with me until June 23, and gave himself up more and more to the morphine habit notwithstanding all our remonstrances and efforts to break him and stop him, using it with great recklessness, and keeping us in a continual state of alarm lest he should injure himself or others in some crazy fit. I was very glad to be relieved from the responsibility of watching and caring for him, and from the danger which I feared attended my family during his presence. After his departure I wrote to his father, then in New York, concerning his dangerous habit, and what I considered his alarming condition. On or about July 16, 1881, I received from the Rev. W. O. Lamson a letter, dated July 15, as follows:—

'Dear Mr. M'Elroy,—I have your letter of yesterday, and again thank you for the candour and clearness with which you have written me upon this sad subject. It enables me to deal with the whole problem more effectively than I would otherwise have done. Many things are now clear to me which before were inexplicable, and my only hope is that the fearful habit has not gotten too strong a hold upon George to be broken. He has plainly been living for some time upon unrealities, and exposing himself to grave misunderstanding by his fantasies. Still, I hope by care and with the blessing of God, we can grapple successfully with the evil, and give George back to his work, for which he has such high qualifications. It must be a work of time and care. We know for the first time the nature of his trouble, for I believe this destructive, morbid appetite to have been the cause of all his ill-health and consequent break up in life.'

"While Dr. Lamson was at my house I formed the opinion of him that he was morally irresponsible, and expressed this opinion to my wife."

Kate P. M'Elroy, wife of the foregoing, states—"In the month of April, 1881, I was residing at Rouse's Point, and my sister, Grace P. Williams, was then on a visit to me. Towards the end of that month George Henry Lamson, a physician, who is, as I am informed, now under sentence of death in London, arrived at my house on a visit. I had known him since the autumn of 1871, and was well acquainted with him, but had not seen him since the year 1877. Immediately on his arrival I noticed a terrible change in his personal appearance, and even in his walk, which had become very peculiar, the left shoulder being higher than the other, and the body stooping and pitching forward as if about to fall. His carriage in former years was very erect and soldier-like. On the first afternoon of his stay he fell into a deep sleep on the sofa, from which he did not awake for several hours. This surprised me, but I was not able then to attribute it to any special cause. On Saturday, April 30, we had visitors in the afternoon. Dr. Lamson left the room and remained so long away that I became alarmed at his absence. I went upstairs

to his room, and found him lying on his bed perfectly unconscious. I made every effort to arouse him, but without success. His breathing was heavy and laboured. He continued in this condition for several hours. During this period I went upstairs several times, and found each time that he was breathing rather more easily. Some day in May, after the 1st and before the 10th, when I was in the sitting-room with my sister, Dr. Lamson came into the room and he injected a fluid into his arm with a syringe which he had with him. He filled the syringe from a bottle, which he placed in a tin cup of hot water on the stove. When I noticed that his face became much flushed and the veins in his forehead swelled, I went up to him, took the syringe away from him, and took the bottle out of the water. The label remained in the water, and when I took it out I found that it was marked, 'morphine.' I said to him, 'You look like a man who is going mad.' A look of terror passed over his face. He then lay down on the sofa at my suggestion, and fell into a deep sleep, which lasted for five or six hours. I sat by him until he woke, at one o'clock in the morning. One evening, shortly after this, I found Dr. Lamson very unwell, and learned from him that he had taken a large dose of laudanum in mistake for chlorodyne. I then determined, by the advice of my husband and in accordance with the wish of Dr. Lamson, to take charge of such medicine as might be in his possession, as we did not think that he was well enough to administer remedies safely to himself. I found that his laudanum bottle was empty. He had besides this a bottle of chlorodyne, about three-quarters full, and an unmarked box of sugar-coated pills. He told me that these pills were either morphia or quinine, but that he did not know which they were. I therefore threw the box with the pills into the lake. One evening we found it quite impossible to arouse him from his heavy sleep on the sofa, and he lay there until four o'clock the next morning. I knew the time, because I was passing backwards and forwards through the sitting-room attending on a sick child. One evening he acted very strangely, talking wildly, and attempting to wind his watch with a cigarette. One afternoon, when he was talking wildly and incoherently, and complaining of his head, I advised him to lie down on the sofa to sleep. While so sleeping, I noticed that his head was very hot and his face flushed. The heat of the head was so great that it was plainly noticeable on holding my hand 2 inches above it. He spent most of his time in the house on the lounge in the sitting-room. Sometimes his conversation was clear, and his memory of past events good. At other times it was so incoherent and irrational as to be quite unintelligible. I know that while he was visiting at our house he was very abstemious in the use of liquors. He took nothing of that kind except a small quantity of brandy, perhaps half a dozen times during his stay, prescribed for him by my husband or myself in consequence of some peculiar weakness at the time, and a glass of lager beer at dinner. During his stay he had several severe hæmorrhages of the lungs. He spat blood continually, and

he complained of the effect of a wound in the chest which he had received in the war. From the conduct and conversation of Dr. Lamson at the time of his visit, I was in continual apprehension lest he might take the life of himself or of some one of the household, being deeply convinced that he had lost all moral responsibility. I ascribe this solely to his use of morphine, which I believed was making him crazy. This being my belief at the time of the condition of his mind, I took great care, and was likewise so cautioned by my husband, that he should not administer any medicines to my children or any member of the household."

Oliver L. Barbour, of Saratoga Springs, a counsellor-at-law, had met Lamson in 1881, and, from what he saw of him, became convinced he was not a person of sound mind, and so remarked to his family at the time. He considered Lamson was not morally responsible for his actions.

R. Kate Barbour, of Saratoga Springs, daughter of the preceding, says—"He told me he suffered constant pain in his head, in consequence of a scalp wound received in the Eastern war. At times his conversation was entirely rational and reasonable, and then he would suddenly, in the midst of a sentence, change on to a new topic, and relate marvellous and incredible adventures and experiences with a wandering, restless, and exceedingly painful appearance in his eyes. From what I saw and observed while he was here, I considered him of unsound mind, quite irresponsible for what he said and did, and attributed it solely to the excessive use of this drug. As soon as I first saw him I made up my mind that his mind was unsettled. This I judged from his restless eyes and rambling talk."

Florence M. Schuyler, of Saratoga Springs, says—"I reside with my father, Oliver L. Barbour, and am upwards of forty years of age. George H. Lamson visited my father's house, June 23 last. I have known him since his childhood, and seen him at frequent intervals. I saw him almost hourly while he was here, and had many long conversations with him both in the presence of other members of the family and while we were dining together. At times his conversation was perfectly clear and lucid, and then he would suddenly, in the midst of a rational conversation, start off on an entirely different topic, mingling truth and romance in a manner which led me to consider him unsettled in his mind. At times he acted so strangely that I was obliged to apologise to friends of the family who met him there. He told me many things concerning his mother's family which I knew were untrue, and built upon such statements stories of fiction and fancy. He told me that his mother's mother was a foreign princess, and expressed surprise that I did not know it, and appeared from his manner and actions to believe that this statement was true. From my general observation of him, his physical appearance, and from his conversation while he was here, I considered him to be a person of unsound mind, and so stated to members of my family. George H. Lamson was my husband's nephew. I have

always considered him affectionate, gentle, and warm-hearted, a high-toned Christian gentleman, and entirely incapable of committing any such act as murder when he was himself."

William H. Hall, of Saratoga Springs, a practising physician, was introduced to George H. Lamson on or about June 23, 1881, and recognised in him one that was of unsound mind.

Grace P. Williams says—"I was staying at Rouse's Point with my sister, the wife of the Rev. Irving M'Elroy, in the month of April, 1881, when Dr. George Henry Lamson, whom I had known for ten years, arrived on a visit. I had not seen him for four years, and I noticed a terrible change in his personal appearance, in his actions, and in his language. I noticed during his stay that he was of abstemious habits as regarded intoxicating liquors, so that the drowsiness which continually oppressed him could not be attributed to that cause. In the performance of my household duties I had to arrange the room occupied by the said Dr. George Henry Lamson, and in doing so I often found empty bottles with druggists' labels marked 'morphine,' some of them with labels of Wagner, druggist at Rouse's Point, upon them. I one day taxed him with using morphine, which he denied. The next day I exhibited one of these empty bottles to him, which very much annoyed him. These fits of drowsiness and long, heavy sleep, such as I noticed on the first day of his arrival, were of daily occurrence during the whole time of his stay while he was in the house. During the time of his visit I thought, and so said, to other members of the household, that Dr. Lamson was in a dangerous condition of mind, and totally irresponsible while he was under the influence of morphine, and he was under such influence constantly during his stay at Rouse's Point.

Gustavus S. Winston, medical director of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York—"I became acquainted with Dr. Lamson in June, 1880, being introduced to him by his father. In March, 1881, I received a letter from the Rev. Wm. O. Lamson informing me that his son was about to come to New York, in broken health, and asking me to give him such professional advice as might be needed, and to show myself his friend. In April Dr. G. H. Lamson presented himself at my office, so changed in appearance and manner that I failed to recognise him. The Rev. Wm. O. Lamson came to New York and informed me that he had reason to believe that his son had formed the habit of using morphine to excess for the relief of pain, and that this habit had so grown upon him that it had materially impaired his mind. He summoned his son to New York, and asked me as a physician to ascertain the facts in the case and advise. A few days later, when Dr. Lamson came to my office, I could discover no change for the better in his general condition, but a very marked change for the worse in the state of his brain. He was wholly unable to talk consecutively upon any subject for any length of time. He made a trip to Europe, and returned early in September, when I asked him to make my office his headquarters, which he did, and I was thus

enabled me to watch him closely and constantly. His habit was to come to the office, enter without speaking to any one, though he knew the clerks and my associate, Dr. Gillett, and to lie on the sofa for hours together, changing his position constantly, and exhibiting marked restlessness and nervousness. At first I supposed that he slept most of the time, but I afterwards found that he seldom lost consciousness at all. He would converse for a few moments at a time intelligently, but would soon drop into silence, and exhibit great weariness, and if he were then induced to talk, his conversation became disconnected and often entirely incoherent. The pupils of his eyes were of normal calibre and acted together. When I questioned him on the morphine habit, he said that he had used the drug one or two years before, not to excess, and had given it up entirely, and called attention to the pupils of his eyes as a proof of his assertion. He also showed me his arms to prove that there were no marks of hypodermic syringe upon them. I questioned him no further, knowing that it was useless, if he were determined upon concealment, and that with his knowledge of chemistry he would be able to combine atropine and morphine so as to prevent the contraction of the pupils. At this time Dr. Lamson was certainly not in the habit of drinking alcoholic stimulants to excess. From careful study of his condition at this time, I became satisfied that his constitution had been weakened by exposure and exertion. He had resorted to the use of hypodermic injections of morphine to control pain, and had become a helpless victim of the habit to an extent which had already seriously impaired his mental powers and destroyed his moral responsibility.

APPENDIX VI.

Execution of Lamson.

(From the *Daily Telegraph*, Saturday, 29th April, 1882.)

Lamson woke yesterday morning at an early hour, after having had a tolerably quiet night's rest. Soon after he rose the chaplain of the gaol entered the condemned cell, and from that moment forward, save during the interval of breakfast, the convict was engaged in devotional services. On the previous day the scaffold had been got ready, and consequently there was no noise to disturb the culprit as he ate or pursued his devotions. The drop used on two previous occasions had already been fitted together, and had been duly inspected by Marwood on the afternoon before. It is true that the executioner, on arriving at the gaol, had found the pit to be of an insufficient depth, and had directed that an additional 18 inches should be dug out, but this had occasioned no noise, and for several hours prior to

the execution Lamson heard nothing to distract his thoughts. The evening preceding had been spent by the culprit in revising his private business, writing letters to friends, arranging monetary affairs, and generally concluding whatever communications he desired to make with his relatives. Then came retirement and sleep.

About a quarter to nine o'clock the bell of the gaol began to toll, greatly disturbing the condemned man, who now learnt that his time had nearly come. Very shortly afterwards the Under-Sheriff, the deputy-governor of the gaol, the surgeon, and four warders made their appearance in the cell, with a view to prepare the convict for his last act. At Wandsworth it seems they have a curious custom. Usually in other gaols it is the method to pinion the prisoner inside his cell, a mode both convenient and commendable. But, for reasons best known to themselves, the officials of this prison prefer to have this operation performed in the open air. Thus it happened that Lamson, who had donned the suit of black which he wore at his trial, was allowed to walk freely from his cell between two warders, at about five minutes to nine, in the direction of the scaffold. That structure chanced happily to be hidden from the point of view of the door by which the culprit emerged by a corner of the wall, so that he could not see either it or the grave newly dug at first. On the procession went, formed in the following order:—Two warders, bearing white wands; then the clergyman of the gaol, in surplice and hood; next the convict, supported by two warders, who at this period had no necessity to assist him in walking; and, finally, the deputy-governor and the surgeon, with several more warders. Marwood, who just then was waiting within the inner gates, with his straps thrown over his arm, only hesitated until the cortege should come near him. As it happened, Lamson had not seen him, and apparently had not expected him, when the leading warders came up to the place where the executioner was. Then there was a sudden pause, for Marwood, with uplifted hand, had called out, "Halt!" and the procession had stopped. That word "halt" told its tale upon the prisoner. Realising to the full his position for the first time, to all seeming, Lamson now staggered, and almost fell against one of the warders who supported him. His tremor was, indeed, terribly apparent, and it was a great question for a moment whether he would not fall. But the executioner at this instant came to his aid, and with the help of the warders kept him in an upright position. Not removing the collar which Lamson had put on, and only turning in the points which might presently stand in the way of the rope, Marwood began to pinion him. "I hope you will not hurt me," the convict murmured, half in fear and half by way, possibly, of remonstrance. "I'll do my best not to hurt you; I'll be as gentle as I can," responded Marwood, and the work went on. Marwood's plan here was apparent. Lamson was a more powerfully built man than he appeared, weighing upwards of 11 stone 12 lbs., and the executioner, evidently fearing that his strength would operate somewhat against

a sharp and quick fall, fastened back his shoulders in a manner which precluded all possibility of the culprit resisting the action of the drop. For this reason, then, Lamson was fastened by the strap somewhat more tightly than Lefroy, whose slimness of figure and comparatively light weight of ten stone only furnished no necessity for any such precautions.

When the convict was pinioned the procession moved on, the clergyman the meanwhile reading the service of the Church appointed for the burial of the dead, the doomed man respondnig almost inaudibly to the words as they were uttered by the chaplain. It was with great difficulty now that he could walk at all; indeed, it is certain that had he not been supported by the two warders who stood on either side of him, he would have fallen to the earth. Suddenly he came in sight of the gallows—a black structure, about 30 yards distant. The grave, newly dug, was close at hand. The new and terrible spectacle here acted once more with painful effect upon the condemned man, for again he almost halted and fell. But the warders, never leaving hold of him, moved on, while Marwood came behind. At last the gallows was reached, and here the clergyman bade farewell to the prisoner, while Marwood began his preparations with the rope and the beam overhead. With a view to meet any accretion of fear which might now befall the culprit, a wise provision had been made. The drop was so arranged as to part in the middle, after the fashion of two folding doors; but, lest the doomed man might not be able to stand upon the scaffold without assistance, two planks of deal had been placed over the drop, one on either side of the rope, so that up to the latest moment the two warders supporting the convict might stand securely and hold him up, without danger to themselves or inconvenience to the machinery of the gallows. In this way Lamson was now kept erect while Marwood fastened his legs and put the cap over his eyes. He must have fallen had the arrangement been otherwise, for his effort to appear composed had by this time failed. Indeed, from what now occurred it is evident that the convict yet hoped for a few moments more of life, for, as Marwood proceeded to pull the cap down over his face he pitifully begged that one more prayer might be recited by the chaplain. Willing as the executioner possibly might have been to listen to this request, he had, of course, no power to alter the progress of the service, and was obliged to disregard this last demand of the dying man. Signalling to the warders to withdraw their arms, he drew the lever, which released the bolt under the drop, and so launched the prisoner into eternity. The clergyman finished the Lord's Prayer, in the midst of which he found himself when the lever had been pulled, and then, pronouncing the benediction, moved slowly back to the prison. Of course the body hung in its place for an hour, in accordance with the law, after which it was taken down and placed in a shell coffin for the purpose of inspection.

During the afternoon Mr. G. H. Hull, one of the coroners for Surrey,

held an inquest on the body of Lamson. Evidence as to identity having been produced, Dr. Wynter, the surgeon of Wandsworth Prison, stated that he had examined the body of the deceased, and that death, which had been instantaneous and painless, was due to apoplexy.

It was on 3rd December last year that Lamson committed the murder for which he yesterday morning answered with his life in Wandsworth Gaol, his victim being his brother-in-law, Percy John, a cripple, suffering from disease of the spine. The youth was in his nineteenth year, and at the date of the murder was a scholar at Blenheim House School, Wimbledon. On the day mentioned Lamson, in the presence of Mr. Bedbrook, the principal of the academy, administered in a capsule sufficient aconitine to produce death. Lamson after the murder left England, but on 8th December presented himself at Scotland Yard to report his whereabouts, and was then taken into custody and charged with the wilful murder of Percy John. From the Wandsworth Police Court he was remitted to the Old Bailey on the capital charge, and, after a trial extending from the 8th to the 14th of March, was found guilty by the jury and sentenced to death by Mr. Justice Hawkins. The execution was fixed for 4th April, but representations from the President of the United States that affidavits of importance, bearing on the sanity of the condemned man, were being sent from America, induced the Home Secretary to grant a reprieve to 18th April. Similar reasons were urged for a still further respite, and yesterday, 28th April, was ultimately fixed as the date of execution.

APPENDIX VII.

Dr. Lamson's Description of his Experiences of the Effect of Morphia and Atropia.

I did not use the first drug alone, but in combination with the latter; not, as has been supposed, to counteract the contracting effect of morphia upon the pupils of the eye, but because it not only enhanced the effects of morphia as a sedative, anodyne, and narcotic, but also because it quite, or nearly quite, overcame the sickness caused by the morphia. The habit became formed from its having been first injected hypodermically by a colleague to relieve pain. I then took it myself, having considerable work to attend to, and in order to brace myself for my professional duties when in pain. After a short time it became absolutely necessary to repeat the injections more frequently, not only for the pain, but to lull the nervous and general physical irritability, which often amounted to actual pain of a heavy rheumatic character, in the head and limbs principally, which occurred when the general

effect had nearly or quite disappeared. Of course, very soon the doses had to be larger, and it required a surprisingly large amount to produce sleep, or even serious drowsiness. Usually the injection had to be repeated within three-quarters of an hour to do this, and then the sleep was of very short duration; and after the habit had existed some time it left the faculties, mental and physical, in a most peculiar and indescribable state for some hours. But the physical results, though severe and horrible to look back upon, were comparatively trifling when the moral and mental results are considered. The whole aspect became strangely and completely turned about. When in the condition above alluded to, after the narcotic effect had evanesced, the whole life was, as far as physical motions and the instincts are concerned, mechanical, and the mind full of the vaguest and most unreal fancies and imaginations. Real worries and troubles, however slight, became terrible in their awfulness, and anticipations were even more dreadful and horrible. The imagination seemed to pierce years into the future; colossal successes or failures, imaginary, would either cause a rush of warm feeling and joy, which would even cause speech to be uttered and hastening of the gait, or a despondency impossible to realise. While in the abnormal state alluded to, the most unaccountable things would be said, done, and thought of. Everything seemed one's own particular right; a complete inability to draw distinction between truth and falsehood, the real and those ideals which became realities, right and wrong, a loss of the knowledge of time and distance—in fact, to a very great extent, the power of distinguishing or discriminating; a tendency, quite unconquerable, to put off things (procrastination in a most exaggerated form and degree), my memory for names, places, and events of daily life, which was when in my normal condition unusually good, almost annulled. In all, an absolute di-naturing, demoralising, dementalising result, and withal a firm conviction that in a few days I should discontinue the habit; but the day never could come. The greatest cunning in concealing the instrument and solution, and the purchase thereof, and when used, as a rule one or two injections after going to bed, then an hour or two's sleep, then awake in that peculiar condition I have endeavoured to describe, either to get up and wander aimlessly, almost unconsciously, sometimes about the house, sometimes in the streets—those image fancies always more real at night. In New York I would rise at any hour of the night or early morning and imagine all sorts of extraordinary things I cannot new recall fully in detail—especially when President Garfield died—and stop at an all-night eating-house for slight refreshment, ice cream and the like, and then return to my room; or else I would read, and always some highly exciting story which became at once reality to me, and then, exhausted, when nearly time for rising, would sink to uneasy sleep, fully believing I was to carry on myself the events of the narrative. When I awoke, generally another injection, a slight one, in the morning, and then one soon before getting up (which I always did very late when alone), would

produce twenty to thirty minutes' half unconsciousness, and then rising, would continue the remainder of the day and evening in the state of mental absence and physical presence I have mentioned. When alone (and I always sought solitude for the greater part of the time, the presence of others in a measure interfering with the portentous and vast work the diseased brain was doing), I took neither breakfast nor lunch; but the only meal in the twenty-four hours was a late dinner, with a very little wine or beer. Whether all this was the result of morphia on the brain, always easily disturbed (delirium in the slightest illness, &c.) from early years, or the effect of atropia, the effect of which I was fully and often painfully conscious of in the dryness of the throat, rendering swallowing almost impossible, and great impairment of sight from the dilated pupils, or the combination of all, I cannot say. I know these vague general outlines of the past are the results of something, and I can dimly distinguish certain acts and doings; but there were many things I did and said which were afterwards told me that I knew and know nothing whatever to my own recollection. I am firmly of the belief, vague, strange sensations existing even now, that it might be of some service were a scientific and pathological post-mortem held after my death. My relatives would probably not raise any objections to this.

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